STAR OF MYSORE

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OUR EVENING DAILY
46th
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

MYSURU Thursday 16th February 2023
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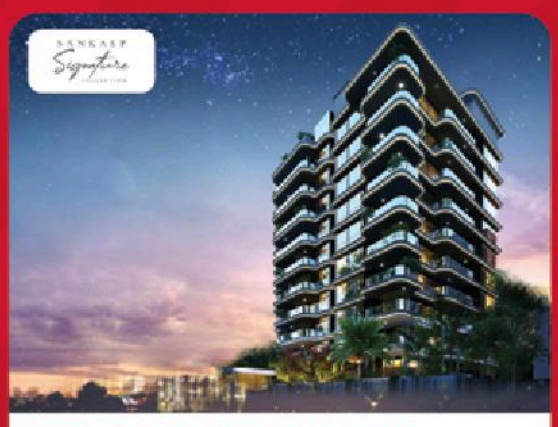

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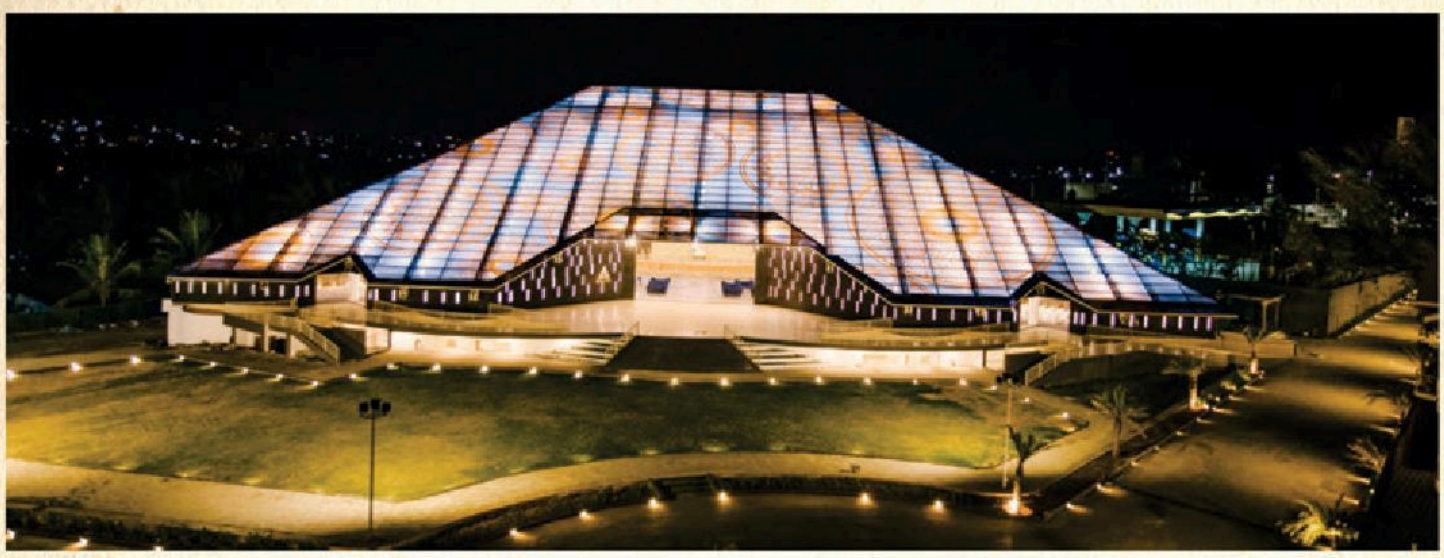

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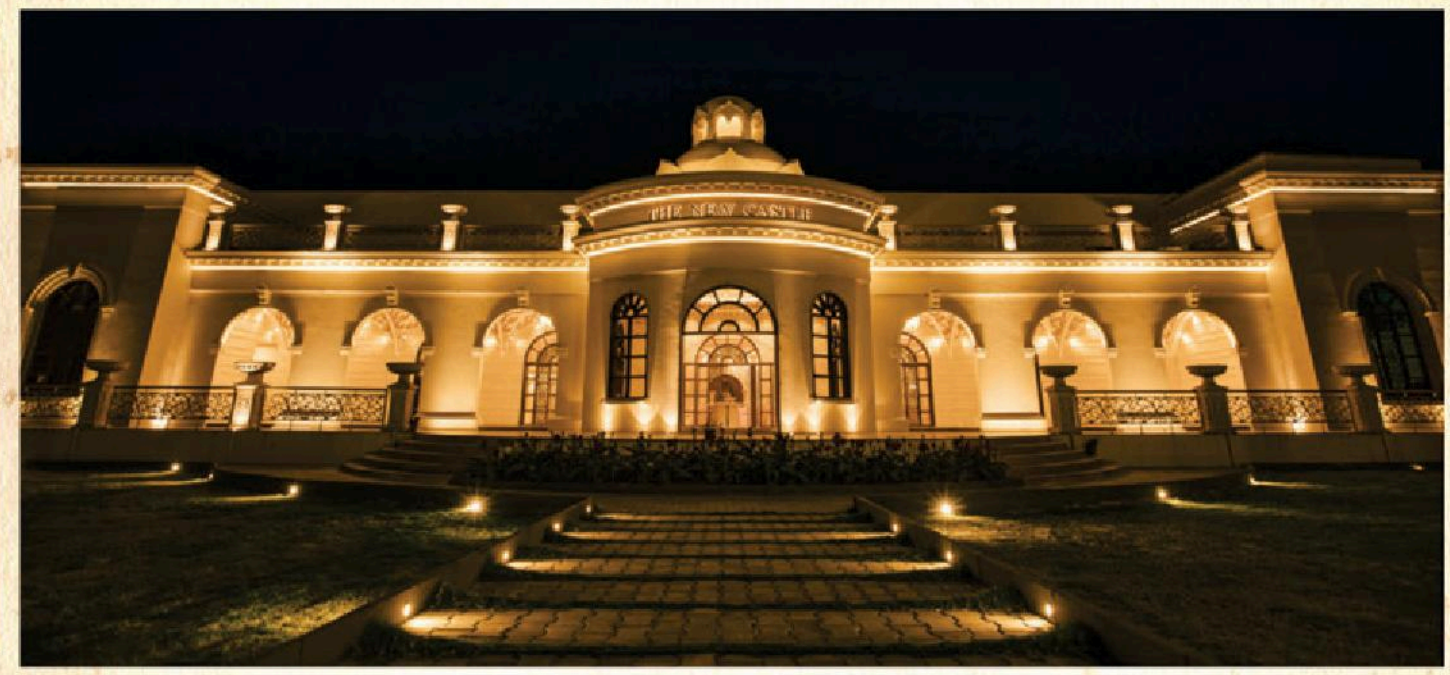

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Thursday 16th February 2023

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 45 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 46th year of our publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are specially beholden to our readers and advertisers for making this possible this year too.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru.* We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

California dog's 7-inch eyelash

California: A California couple's dog is now a Guinness World Record holder after her longest eyelash was measured at 7 inches long.

Coco, owned by Rachelle Parks and Michael Babich, had her eyelash measured three times by a veterinarian, who confirmed the lash was grown naturally.

The newfypoo, a mix of a Newfoundland and a poodle, was awarded the record after her 7-inch lash was confirmed by GWR to be longer than the 6.69-inch eyelash grown by an Australian labradoodle named Ranmura, who was awarded the record in 2014.

"When we go out she gets a lot of attention, not just because of her lashes but also her size — she's a big girl," Parks said. "People are amazed at her lashes. A few years ago they were like 5.6 inches long and when I checked on Guinness World Records, the current world record was longer.

Sketching Taj Mahal from its spelling

New Delhi: Internet is full of talented people who take to social media handles to share their creativity and diverse skills. Now, an incredible creation by an artist has gone viral online. The video shows the artist drawing a sketch of the Taj Mahal from the monument's spelling.

Artist Akdev, who has more than 35,000 followers, shared the video on his Instagram page. "Taj Mahal naam se Taj Mahal drawing (Drawing Taj Mahal from Taj Mahal's name)," he wrote while posting the video which shows the artist standing in front of a small blackboard which has the word 'Taj Mahal' written on it. He then takes chalk and starts drawing by connecting the letters of the word, to create a sketch of the monument. The video has garnered over 15 lakh likes and more than 8,000 comments by the netizens who are amazed by his skills.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Recurrent urinary infection is common in uncontrolled diabetes, those who are having urinary tract obstruction (by stones, stricture and enlargement of prostate) and who take pain killers.

By Dr. Dinesh Kumar T. P. - Consultant – Urology and Andrology
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

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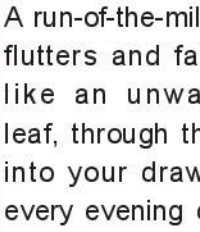

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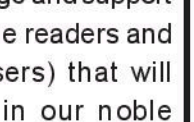

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* or any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Doing Nothing

My wife asked, *"What are you doing today?"* ***I replied,*** *"Nothing."*
She said, *"You did that yesterday."* ***"I wasn't finished."***

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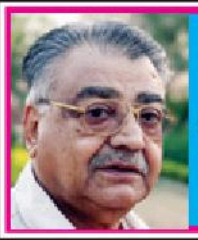


Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

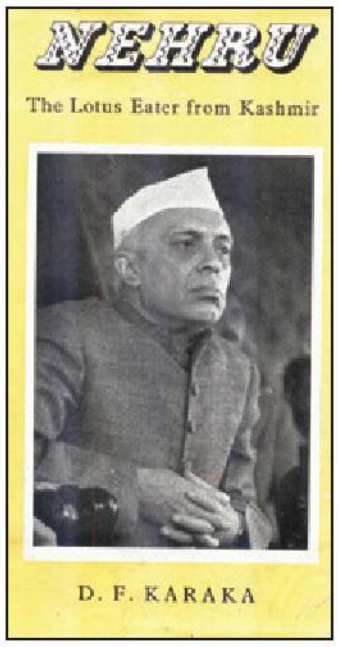
The Discovery of Nehru -1

It is needless to say that the inspiration for the headline of this article is derived from the well-known book titled *'The Discovery of India,'* written by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, while he was in jail. Likewise, the inspiration for me to write this article has come from a very rare book on Nehru titled *'Nehru - The Lotus Eater from Kashmir'* by famous journalist D.F. Karaka, who was also the Editor of an independent anti-communist Weekly of Bombay *'The Current.'* As I remember, *'The Current'* was considered an antidote to its rival pro-communist Weekly *'Blitz'* edited by R.K. Karanjia. Let it be.

The book *'Nehru - The Lotus Eater from Kashmir'* was first published in May 1953 in London and that was the reason why I was impelled to read it. Author Karaka says that when he first saw Nehru, the image that remained in his mind was that of a handsome aristocrat with well-chiselled features, looking more like a Greek God than a Kashmiri Brahmin. Karaka says that fate had been kind to Nehru from his birth. Interestingly, Karaka quotes from an article written anonymously by Nehru about himself and titled *'Jawaharlal Nehru'* and published in a mediocre publication *'Modern Review'* of Kolkata. This was published in November 1937.

Apparently, it gave an idea of Nehru, the man, the politician and a visionary, of course, as he visualised or understood himself. Curiously, in one passage, the anonymous author writes, "Jawaharlal cannot become a fascist. And that he has all the makings of a dictator in him — vast popularity, strong will directed to a well-defined purpose, energy, pride, organisational capacity, ability, hardness and with all his love of the crowd, an intolerance of others and certain contempt for the weak and inefficient."

Reading this, I imagined that this description of Nehru by Nehru himself in his anonymous article might, in some way, well fit the description of our present Prime Minister Narendra Modi !



It is our country's good fortune that despite some Himalayan blunders committed by Nehru as Prime Minister, he saved and secured for India the most valued and precious political institution that is Democracy.

The last sentence of the paragraph is pregnant with a potential to enable him to become a dictator like the Roman Dictator Julius Caesar. Nehru writes, "In normal times, he (Nehru) would just be an efficient and successful executive, but in this revolutionary epoch, Caesarism is always at the door, and it is not possible that Jawaharlal might fancy himself as a Caesar?"

Reading this, once again I imagined that our present Prime Minister Modi too might not 'fancy himself as Caesar.'

Continuing, Nehru's anonymous article says, "Therein lies danger for Jawaharlal and for India… Let us not spoil him by too much adulation and praise. His conceit, if any, is already formidable. It must be checked. We want no Caesars."

Here too, I imagined our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who definitely will endorse the views expressed about Caesarism by Nehru as long ago as 1937. Indeed that was quite an incredible article by Nehru about himself and it is our country's good fortune that despite some of his Himalayan blunders as Prime Minister, he secured and saved for India the most valued and precious political institution that is Democracy.

The book *'Nehru - The Lotus Eater from Kashmir'* narrates Nehru's early days as Prime Minister, his vision for the country, his foreign policy with many fault-lines, intended more for self-glorification among the comity of Nations (read underdeveloped and developing Nations) when the world was already bipolar, divided between communists and capitalists and about his disastrous Kashmir and China Policy etc.

According to Karaka, there was very little humility in Nehru. Karaka says in the book that there was nothing humble about the way Nehru ran his Cabinet: To his Ministers he was like a school master taking his class. Only two of his Cabinet colleagues, Maulana Azad and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, exercised influence over him. But there was no dearth of worshippers at Nehru's temple. The legend continued, not surprisingly even to the present day.

The most significant and revealing part of the book is Chapter 9, which is sarcastically titled *'The Emperor Himself.'* As you know, Kashmir is the hot-spot of the Indian Union. Pandit Nehru, in his autobiography, says in a simplistic manner, "Over 200 years ago, early in the 18th century, our ancestor came down from that mountain valley to seek fame and fortune in the rich plains below."

It took an emperor, Farrukh Siyar to induce the Nehru family, whose original Kashmiri name was Kaul, to migrate to the imperial capital to accept a *Jagir* (feudal tenancy) with a house situated on the banks of a canal (hence the name Nehru). In successive generations thereafter, they held high office of *Vakil* of the 'Sarkar Company' and *Kotwal* of Delhi which were bestowed on the Nehru ancestors.

Nehru had a strong urge to lean back on his Kashmiri ancestry even though they had settled in India from about the year 1716. Nehru's infatuation with Kashmir or as a Kashmiri Pandit was such that he begins his autobiography with a chapter titled *'Descent from Kashmir.'* However, as an afterthought, he mentions in a footnote the truth: "I was born in Allahabad on the 14th November, 1889..."

Karaka elaborates on these sentiments of Nehru in the following words: To call oneself a Kashmiri, shows quality of breeding, learning and scholarship. Nehru is very proud of his prefix, Pandit. When titles were abolished and the order was given that everyone should henceforth uniformly be called Shri (Mister), the officials of the Government Departments proceeded to drop the 'Pandit' and began to refer to the Prime Minister as Shri Nehru. The Prime Minister was most upset. He quickly made it clear that 'Pandit' was not a title and therefore there should be no objection to anyone using it. Accordingly, the word 'Pandit' was immediately reinstated.

Strategically, Kashmir is the most important territory for India's defence. It is bounded by five countries — namely India, Tibet, China, Russian Turkestan and Afghanistan. Jawaharlal Nehru visited Kashmir after his marriage in 1916 and also describes his visit to Zoji La Pass. Incidentally, I too had visited this Zoji La Pass with my Rotary friends some months back. Karaka says this Kashmir was ruled by a weak but pleasure-loving Maharaja, a courteous, pleasant-looking Indian Prince, fond of racing, fond of throwing parties, fond of good food and singing. It appears that Karaka used to live below him at one time — in the same apartment house in Bombay. This Prince of Kashmir, His Highness, the Maharaja Hari Singh Bahadur of Jammu and Kashmir sat on his throne by the grace of the British, who flattered his vanity no end, that included saluting him with 21 booming guns.

[To be continued tomorrow]

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Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa's 188th Jayanti

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (SSM)- Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Yadavagiri, Mysuru, will be celebrating the 188th Jayanti of Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa at its premises on Feb. 21.

The day-long event will feature Vedic chanting at 5.15 am, mahamangalarati and bhajans at 5.30 am, special puja at 7.30 am, Vishnusahasranama chanting at 8 am, bhajans at 9 am, reading of selected passages at 10.35 am, mahamangalarathi at 10.45 am, homa at 11 am, distribution of prasada at 12 noon, bhajans by Sri Sharada Samvit Bhajana Mandali at 4.30 pm, discourse in Kannada on the topic 'Sri Ramakrishna's life and teachings' at 6 pm and sandhyarati and special bhajans at 7 pm.

Annual celebrations

As part of the Ashram's annual celebrations from Feb. 22 to 25, the following events will be held at the Ashram premises:

Feb. 22: 5.30 pm - Sandhyarati; **5.45 pm:** Discourse in Kannada by Swami Mangalanathanandaji on 'Pathita Pavane Sharade'; **6.45 pm:** Bhajan Sandhya - Abhang Vani by Sudam Danageri. He will be accompanied by Vignesh Bhagwat on harmonium and Parameshwar Hegde on tabla.

Feb. 23: 5.30 pm - Sandhyarati; **5.45 pm:** Discourse in Kannada by Prof. M. Krishnegowda on 'Kuvempu Darshita Sri Ramakrishnaru mattu Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama'; **6.45 pm:** Bhakti Sangeetha by Nagachandrika Bhat with Raghunath on tabla, Gurudath on rhythm pad and Sharath on keyboard.

Feb. 24: 5.30 pm - Sandhyarati; **5.45 pm:** Discourse in Kannada by Beli Mutt Seer Sri Shivanubhava Charamurthi Shivarudra Swamiji on 'Dharma mattu Adhyatma - Sri Ramakrishnara mattu Basaveshwarara Drushtikonadalli'; **6.45 pm -** Gaanasudharasa by Vid. Shivananda Bhat with Vid. N.G. Hegde on tabla and Harishchandra Naik on harmonium.

Feb. 25: 5.30 pm - Sandhyarati; **5.45 pm -** Abbhi Daan Punya Trust Founder Deepak Abbhi will speak in English about the services of the Ashram; **6 pm -** Discourse in Kannada by Rohit Chakratirtha on 'Mysurige Viveka Bhandavya'; **7 pm -** "Veera Sanyasi" - Solo Tala-Maddale by Divakar Hegde. Bhagavataru - Gajanana Bhat Tulageri and Maddale by Manjunatha Guddadinba.

On the occasion, there will be 20% discount on books published by the Ashram. For details, contact Mob: 94824-17444 or Ph: 0821-2417444.

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Bommai to present State Budget tomorrow

Bengaluru, Feb. 16 (Agencies)- Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio, will present the State Budget tomorrow (Feb. 17).

The CM has already assured the people of Karnataka that the State's Budget this year will be pro-people and in the interest of all its citizens. "Like last year, the State budget for the year 2023-24 will be pro-people and the entire Karnataka can expect something from the budget," he had said in Mysuru recently.

Bommai announced that he would present a budget that would focus on farmers and the poor. "We will launch a scheme for women and girls. This will help them tackle their day-to-day problems and will help them to lead their lives. The scheme will be titled Stree Samarthya Yojana (Women Empowerment Scheme)," he added.

The Chief Minister is saddled with the expectation of setting a strong poll narrative for the BJP through his budget speech, while not losing sight of the State's economic needs.

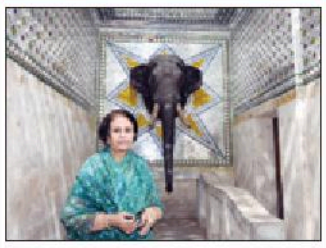
Basavaraj Bommai

Although the budget presented now is likely to be replaced by a new Government post the Assembly elections, BJP leaders are banking on this budget to flex their muscles and counter the on-ground campaigns of both Congress and the JD(S).

Financial analysts say that finding a means to shore up the energy sector will be a significant challenge for the Chief Minister in the wake of Congress promising to give 200 units of free power if it forms the next Government. Various quarters, including his own party colleagues, are also curious about how Bommai will counter this proposal in an election year.

Experts say that with revenue collection in the first 10 months of the current fiscal being more than healthy and with the Government set to end the financial year with more money in its coffers than estimated, the budget is likely to touch the Rs. 3 lakh crore mark.

To Our Readers



Turn to Page - 28 for a candid chat with Pramoda Devi Wadiyar where she speaks to ***Star of Mysore*** *Managing Editor Vikram Muthanna about Rajendra Vilas Palace and Devikere atop Chamundi Hill and exclusive pictures by* ***Star of Mysore*** *Photographer M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav.*—**Ed**

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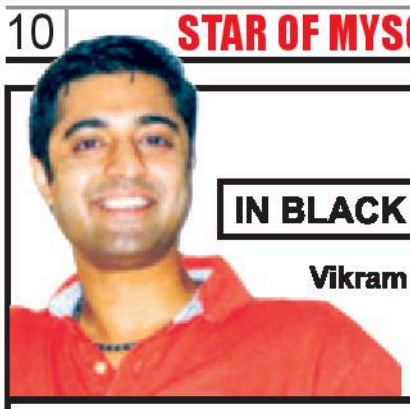
NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. —**Ed**



IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Unwrap Swami & Friends, Now.

As you drive near the Joy Ice Cream Factory in Yadavagiri, you will see three mummies wrapped in black plastic at the Circle. It's an eerie sight. But for some of us who know what's within these black plastic wraps, it is a disappointing sight.

Wrapped within this black tarp is a gift to our city waiting to be opened. The gift is statuary — a group of statues — of 'Swami and Friends,' the characters from the first book of a Trilogy by author R.K. Narayan which was adapted to the TV as 'Malgudi Days.'

The saga of these statues started in 2017 when Tharun Giri, the Managing Director of *Windflower Resorts*, contacted the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to seek permission to develop the Circle in the same way *Hotel Grand Mercure* developed the Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Circle (Highway Circle) with the elephant-head statue.

Tharun Giri's family, especially his father, P.V. Giri, has a history of supporting art and artists. He has conducted KHOJ, a one-of-a-kind art festival in Mysuru and the 'Cha Cha Cha,' art workshop in 2020.

The MCC approved the request and the Corporators gave them the go-ahead, assuring them that all the approvals needed would be cleared.

Feeling confident, the family decided that since the most famous resident of Yadavagiri was R.K. Narayan and his house being just a stone's throw away from the Circle, they would install statuary of R.K. Narayan's most famous characters from his book 'Swami and Friends.' The statues would look towards their creator's house.

Soon, the family contacted our city's internationally-acclaimed artist N.S. Harsha to help with the project. Harsha then contacted sculptor M.D. Raviraj, also from Mysuru. In just under a month, a studio was set up.

To get the proportions right, three school boys were brought to the studio and dressed up like the three characters from the book; measurements were taken, moulds prepared and metallurgy was decided.

Meanwhile, the Circle was prepped to welcome the sculptures and in about eight months, the three sculptures were ready for installation... but the approval still had not come as promised by the Corporators.

As time passed and with no sign of approval, the sculptures were packed up and stowed away.

But why did a non-political art installation created by reputed artists costing the patron lakhs of rupees — with a noble intention to give back to the city — get delayed for so long?

Well, it was a combination of many issues — The Government's 'ban on the statue of individuals,' the officials' inability to differentiate between fictional characters from a book and a 'statue of an individual living or dead' and the lack of sense of aesthetics among the members of the civic body caused the delay.

'Swami & Friends' ***statuary at Joy Ice Cream Circle in Yadavagiri waiting to be inaugurated.***

Last year, ex-Corporator D. Nagabushan convinced the members from all political parties to support that installation and ex-Mayor Ayub Khan forced the MCC Works Committee to approve this project.

Finally, the statues were erected, but no leader gave a date to inaugurate them. It was a case of "You couldn't inaugurate with them because they would not provide a date, nor could you inaugurate without them lest they feel insulted." And so, the sculptures stood there wrapped in black plastic to protect them while reflecting our leaders' apathy towards art.

Maybe if they were told it was the statue of some leader who belonged to a community which was a large 'vote bank,' they would rush to inaugurate it.

The public and politicians must be aware of public art's importance. Public art is essential in an urban space. More importantly, it also helps build the city's image and for a tourist city like Mysuru, image is critical. And interesting public art is necessary for a city known for its culture and royal heritage.

To do this, the decision-makers have to have the mindset for it. Here one must applaud former Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Aparna Garg, who was instrumental in installing the beautiful statuary that welcomes passengers to the Mysuru City Railway Station. The statuary is titled 'Life is a journey.'

Now thanks to this installation, when passengers get off at the Mysuru Train Station, the first impression they would have is that they have indeed landed in a cultural city.

If Mysuru wants to continue to be a tourist destination, it must encourage public art, but more importantly, it must be professionally curated. City walls painted with anatomically obtuse animals and State tourist spots are not interesting public art. At best, they are tacky and worse, look like an act of vandalism.

Our city can look at the public art created by artists like Shilo Shiv Suleman, who brought life into the K.R. Flower Market in Bengaluru with her murals or Harshvardhan Kadam, whose mural of children is a delight to see at the M.G. Road Metro Station.

As we go on with our daily life, public art can influence how we think and feel as citizens; it has the same effect on tourists. It is common for most of us, especially our administrators and politicians, to think of public art installations as mere aesthetic baubles or worse, a waste of money.

But a good public art created by reputed artists is an investment towards our city's image. And today, a good image is everything in a hyper-competitive tourist market, where every city is vying for tourist dollars. If we are a royal heritage city and claim to be a cultural city, let it reflect in our public spaces.

Public art can also be about sending a message. One must appreciate the contractor who has bagged the contract for recycling e-waste in Mysuru. He engaged artists from Bengaluru to create sculptures of animals using the e-waste from Mysuru. One must also appreciate the MCC for allowing these sculptures in parks throughout the city to create awareness about e-waste management.

That said, most public art today is tacky, silly and cringe-worthy. They tend to be money-makers — money spent on cheap murals with a kickback in mind and not aesthetics.

Instead of spending money on public art, the Government must encourage private citizens to turn patrons by making the approval process easier. The quality of art and aesthetics will be far superior.

For now, let's hope some leader will soon agree to inaugurate this beautiful gift given to Mysuru by a Mysurean, sculpted by a Mysurean and inspired by a legend who called Mysuru his home.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

VOICE OF THE READER

Dear *Star of Mysore*

Journalism Par Excellence

Sir,

Baby that was you, 45 years ago, now grown up to a matured adult with the careful and loving care of the mentor KBG for short.

Star of Mysore has grown through many ups and downs with the blessings of the well-wishers.

Kudos to you *Star of Mysore* for the physical as well as the mental maturity thus gaining such popularity you are in now.

Well !! the special 'masalas' like 'Editor's Bottomline', 'Health Capsule,' 'Really,' 'Laughter The Best Medicine', 'Word of the Day', 'The Odd Word,' 'Phrase of the Day,' 'Quote Box', 'Riddle' and, of course, the popular 'Cryptoquip' — what a bevy of *masala* items to make the gourmet most palatable. Hence, I need you every day.

It's my pleasure to wish Happy Birthday and many many tasteful days to come.

—Dr. K.B. Chinnappa
The Taster
Gonikoppal, Kodagu
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Konkani spiritual retreat in city on Feb. 18

Br. Prakash

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (SSM)- Konkani Christian Association, Mysuru, has organised a Konkani spiritual retreat by Br. Prakash D'Souza and team from Mumbai at Infant Jesus Shrine, Pushpashrama in Naidu Nagar here on Feb. 18 between 9 am and 5 pm.

Br. Prakash D'Souza will speak on the topic 'Abide in my love.'

The retreat will continue in Kannada language on Feb. 19. Interested may contact Mob: 99458-01354 for overnight accommodation at the venue with prior booking facility.

For details, call Mob: 96436-41901 or 94493-23337.

55 engineers to check each of 4,274 vote verification machines

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (RK&BCT)- Over 4,274 VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails) systems arrived in the city on the night of Feb. 14 amidst tight security from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad.

On Feb, 15, the process of recording each VVPAT system through a barcode began. The systems were brought by a team of officers and staff under the leadership of Mysuru District EVM and VVPAT Nodal Officer G.T. Dinesh Kumar, who is also the Commissioner of MUDA.

Over 100 officers drawn from various Government Departments checked the barcodes of the VVPAT systems after scanning the barcodes with their mobile phones and uploading the data to the ECIL. Each officer was given a unique login and password to ensure confidentiality and eliminate the leakage of information.

Officers had to scan the barcodes and upload the data and a special software has been created for the purpose. The ECIL is a repository of data of the machines/systems manufactured ('outward'), distributed to respective districts and also the 'inward' data (uploaded by the recipient districts and constituencies). This fool-proof method ensures confidentiality, said sources.

On Feb. 17, the First Level Checking of the VVPAT systems will begin with a team of 55 engineers from ECIL arriving in Mysuru for the authentication process. The engineers will come to Mysuru after checking the VVPAT systems in Dakshina Kannada. After the engineers check the systems, they will be locked and will be opened only for the Second Level Checking. Till the polls are held, there will be checks at three levels, sources added.

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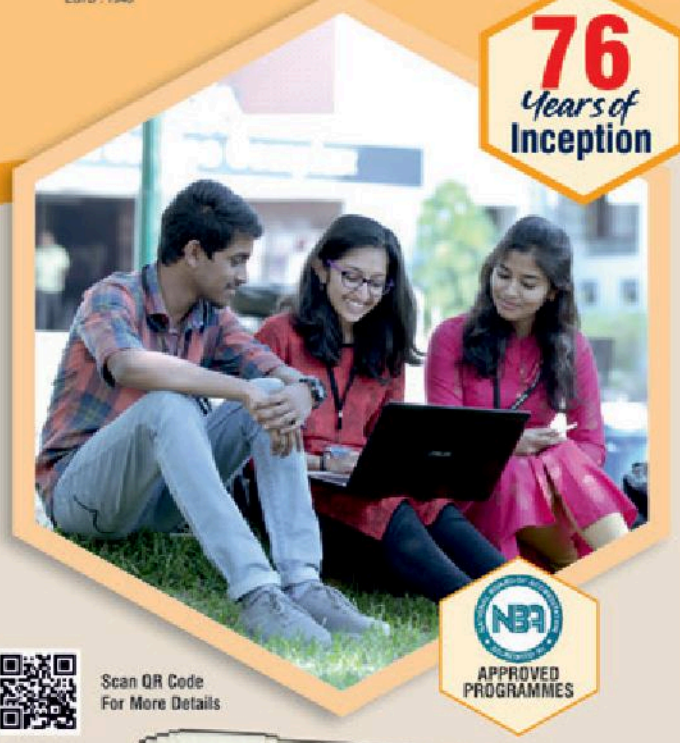

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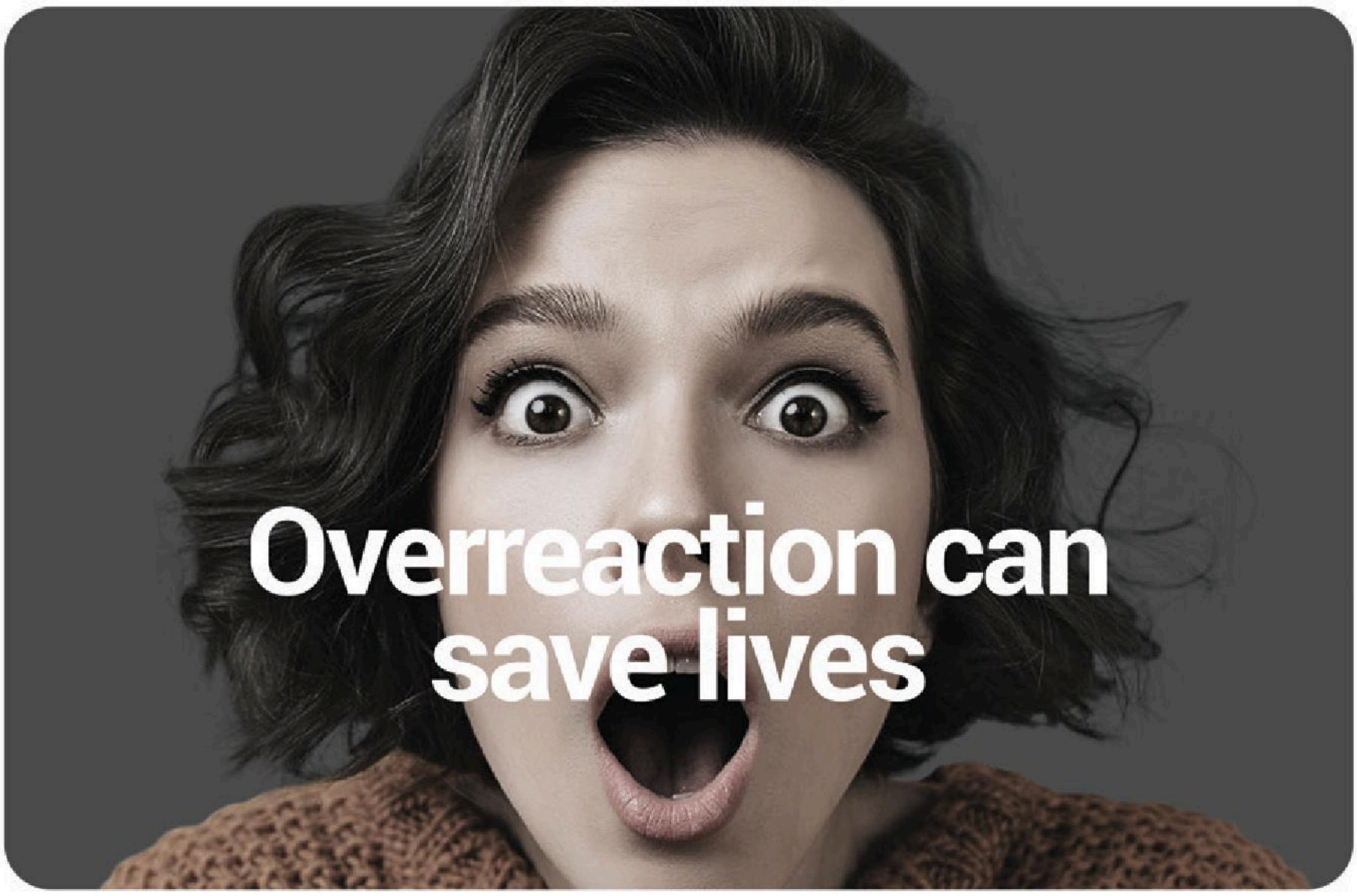

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Plan simple, Dream big

DC Dr. K.V. Rajendra gives a peek into his life, hobbies and passion

Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.V. Rajendra is a 2013 batch IAS Officer of the Karnataka cadre. He has served as the DC of Dakshina Kannada and also as an Assistant Commissioner of Puttur. A native of Thirthahalli in Shivamogga, Dr. Rajendra completed his schooling at Ranebennur and pursued his MBBS degree from J.J.M. Medical College, Davanagere.

Dr. Rajendra yearned for more challenges and cracked the civil services examination successfully with 32nd rank. This 38-year-old officer, who enjoys exploring OTT, is married to a medical graduate and has a daughter. He is passionate about cricket and has played at zonal levels. With a keen interest in upgrading tourism, he opens up about his journey of being the top bureaucrat of Mysuru.

By Shadan Muneer

Star of Mysore (SOM): Please share a few highlights about your formative years.

Dr. K.V. Rajendra: I did my schooling at Ranebennur. The biggest strength was my parents who pushed me out of my comfort zone and instilled the zeal to ascend greater heights. With rural exposure, simplicity and competitiveness were inbuilt into my personality. I and my sister were goaded to concentrate on education and were groomed to be competitive.

We were encouraged to read newspapers, indulge in extra-curricular activities and follow a routine which added a lot of discipline and self-motivation. My childhood was fun-filled, yet challenging and I experienced both rural and city life.

SOM: What has been your biggest motivating factor for being a civil servant?

Dr. Rajendra: I was fortunate to experience and enjoy two different geographical locations because of which I could cultivate broad thinking. Having witnessed affluent as well as downtrodden sections of society I would always wonder what can be done to improve the standard of living of people and that's when the idea of writing competitive exams blossomed.

SOM: Besides your profession, what are the other aspects that interest you?

Dr. Rajendra: I am a die-hard cricket fan. I have played cricket at zonal levels. Now with the time constraints and work pressure, I don't indulge in my passion more often but I make sure that I ardently follow the cricket action happening around me. I am also enthusiastic about playing tennis and badminton. Apart from sports, I am a movie buff too. I like exploring different languages and watching good content that's available on OTT.

SOM: Your designation comes with a plethora of responsibilities. How do you manage and unwind?

Dr. Rajendra: Yes, my designation is challenging, long working hours coupled with serious responsibilities stress you up at times. But every day you get to learn something and gain experience. It's important to be in the right state of mind to deal with stress which is part of my job.

SOM: How do you go about managing your professional and personal life?

Dr. Rajendra: It is a tricky situation as my job keeps me occupied for long hours. Sometimes I feel guilty for not giving enough time to my family. But whatever time I get to spend with my family I make sure that it is well-spent. Mysuru is a demanding place and with elections coming up it is difficult to find free time. But when I do get time, I spend it with my daughter, and yes balancing both is definitely a challenge.

SOM: What are your plans for the district?

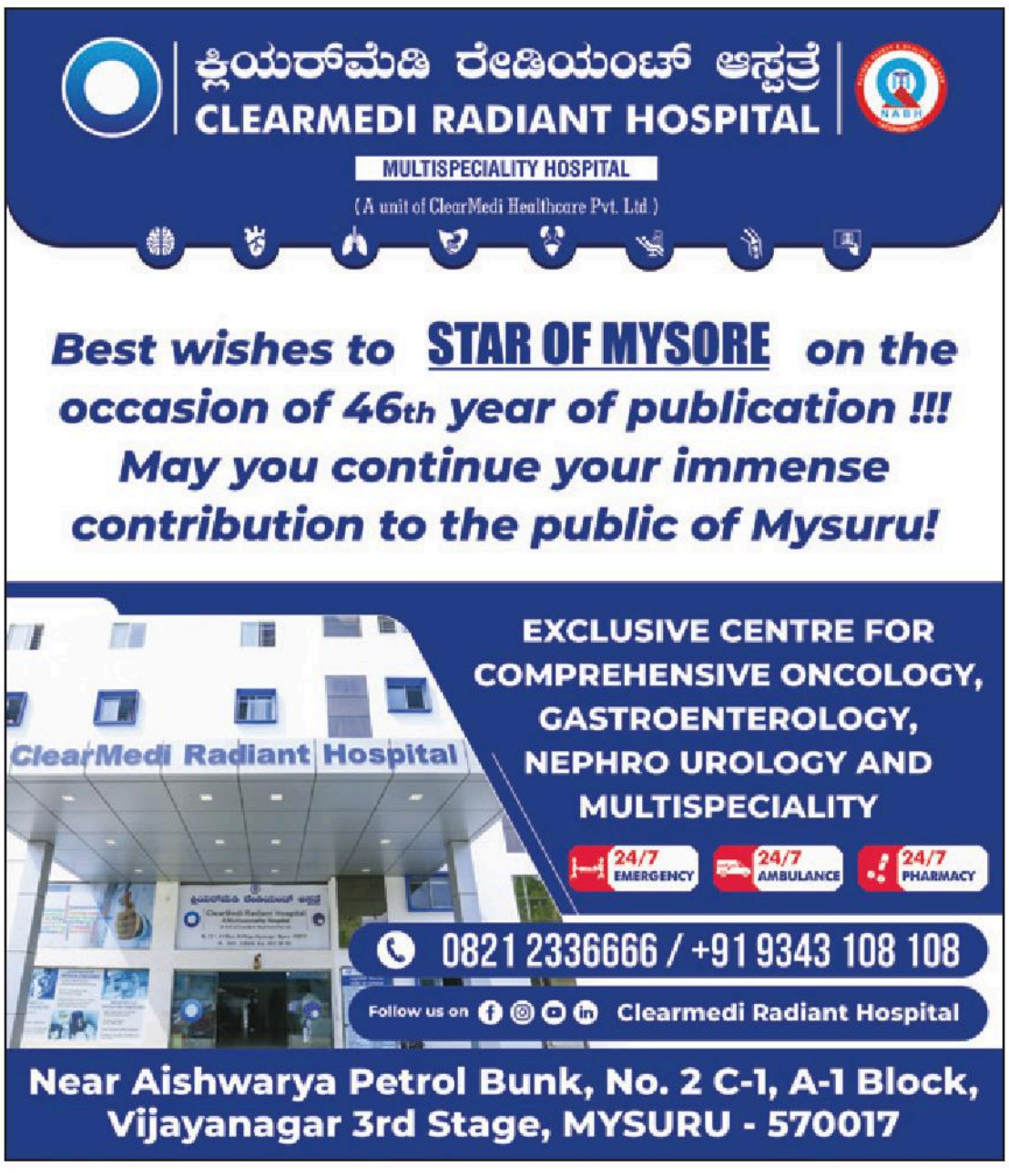
Dr. Rajendra: Mysuru, the cultural capital of Karnataka, has been one of the prominent cities. Being a heritage city, it attracts a large contingent of tourists. With an aim of upgrading the tourist places, we have several plans to bring about development in different spheres also. Traffic problem needs to be addressed and we are working out on the integrated command and control centre and need to prepare a road map for traffic decongestion by anticipating future problems.

SOM: What message would you like to give the youngsters of Mysuru?

Dr. Rajendra: Keep your plans simple and dream big. There is no restriction on dreaming but make sure you follow your dreams sincerely. Do not fear failure and get discouraged. It is all part of life. Take things positively; smart work over hard work is required; utilise and invest time wisely.

SOM: How are you liking your stint in Mysuru?

Dr. Rajendra: It's been amazing so far; Mysuru is a demanding place and the city is teaching me a lot of things. Overall, it is a peaceful place with a serene environment ▪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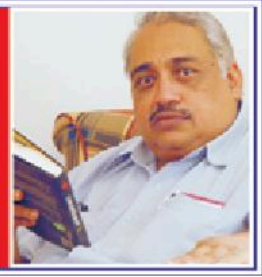


By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

Two Memorable Evenings at the Falaknuma

The year was 1975. I was a first year medical student at the **M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga** and we were on a class tour of **Aurangabad** and the world famous **Ajanta and Ellora Caves** nearby. That was the time when **Arif Zafar,** my classmate from Raichur and I were the only ones in our class who possessed cameras. He had a brand new **Yashica 635,** a unique model, which could work with both 120 and 35 mm film and I had my newly acquired **Nikomat FTN,** a much aged workhorse that digested only 35 mm.

I had got this new acquisition for rupees five thousand, when my monthly allowance, including my room rent, was just rupees five hundred. It had come up for sale, quite unexpectedly, with three high-end, prime lenses, when its former owner, a French visitor to Gulbarga, decided to part with it, before leaving India. I sent an urgent telegram to my father in Mysore for money to buy it and thankfully, he, whose own hobby was photography, responded to my telegram with his, saying that I could go ahead and buy it, which naturally sent me into unbridled ecstasy.

But those were the days when instant bank transfers and other modes of digital payment were not even envisioned, let alone being operational and so there was no way I could get the money I needed before the French visitor left Gulbarga. Although there used to be a service called **Telegraphic Money Order,** its upper limit was well below the cost of the camera I sought to buy. So, even before I could ask him to do something about it, my father sent me another telegram, *sou moto,* 'authorising' me to request one of my Professors, **Dr. D.C. Galagali,** the French visitor's friend and host, to make the payment, which he would reimburse later by cheque.

The sale took place immediately and I was quickly in possession of my new, expensive toy, much to my relief and delight, a day before we had to depart for Aurangabad.

During our tour, while chatting with my friends, as we were sitting on the ramparts of the **Beed Fort,** I suggested to them that we should undertake a tour of Mysore, my hometown, because, with its many sights, it was a tourists' paradise. To this, my friend Arif immediately retorted that compared to Hyderabad, which was much nearer, Mysore had nothing great to boast about, except for just three Palaces, with only one of them being open to the public and the marble statues of two of its former Maharajas, at the two ends of a road that passed in front of it.

He went on to say that Hyderabad had more than a dozen Palaces and the best cuisine too, which just could not be matched by anything that Mysore could offer. I was quite piqued by his remarks but not having seen Hyderabad, I decided to tread cautiously instead of getting into an argument with him and I left the matter there.

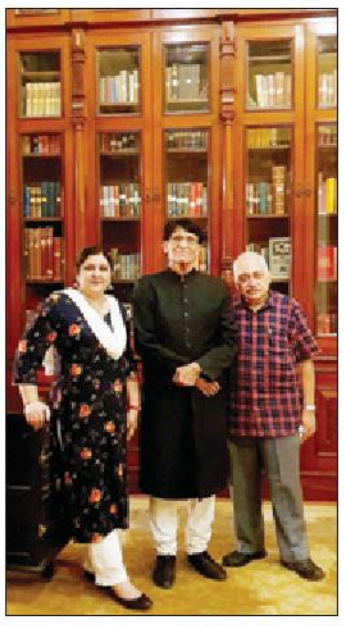
Our tour went off well and we returned to Gulbarga and settled down with our studies. But with my friend's rather disparaging remarks about Mysore, my mind somehow refused to settle down. Very soon after this incident, when my parents visited me in Gulbarga, I suggested to them that we should visit Hyderabad, which we did, very soon. That is when I first discovered the fabled Hyderabadi cuisine and the sights the city had to offer.

After exploring Hyderabad for about four days, I had to swallow my pride and secretly admit to myself that Hyderabad was indeed superior to Mysore when it came to Palaces worth seeing and eateries that opened in the evening and remained open till the wee hours of the morning, serving the most delectable and exotic dishes.

HYDERABAD'S ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL: ***The Falaknuma Palace.***

While the legendary **Hyderabadi Biryani,** surprisingly failed to impress me as being superior to its counterpart, that we enjoyed back here, their **Khubani ka Meetha,** made out of Apricot pulp and kernels, became an instant hit with me. It was literally 'love at first bite' and there has been no looking back, even after so many years.

While it is said that there were seventeen Palaces in and around Hyderabad, once upon a time, thirteen of them still exist with about six of them being open to the public. Although we were able to see just three Palaces and the fabled **Salar Jung Museum,** among the most important places of tourist interest, during our first visit, we were told by the locals that Hyderabad's best architectural marvel was the fairy-tale **Falaknuma Palace,** which was unfortunately closed to the public. So, after my return from Hyderabad, I carried back not just happy memories of our visit but also a strong desire to see the Falaknuma Palace, somehow, sometime. But this dream not just remained with me but it became more and more intense, as time went by and I got to read as much as I could, in print, about the Palace of my dreams, in the pre-internet era.



The author and his wife, with their guide, Prabhakar.

Much later, I was also able to see very impressive pictures of the Palace taken by **Raja Deen Dayal,** the most famous photographer of the era, when royalty could be seen in life and blood, across the length and breadth of India.

At last, in the year 2010, when I learnt that the Falaknuma Palace had been converted into a luxury hotel by its owners, in partnership with the Tatas, who owned the Taj Hotels brand, I felt very happy that my dream of seeing it could now become a reality. But, very strangely, with this turn of events, my impatience to do it, somehow became less intense, perhaps due to the knowledge that it was no longer an impossible task to accomplish.

And that long-standing dream was realised at last, when I was in Hyderabad two weeks ago, with my wife, to attend a medical conference. My daughter Sarah decided to book us both a slot for the evening **High Tea** at the Falaknuma, which also included an unhurried, guided tour of the beautiful place. It turned out to be a most wonderful experience for us, on both counts. The elaborate and almost ceremonial tea that has a chef-crafted menu and the Palace tour, which ends with an hour-long, open-air **Qawwali.**

Our guide that evening was **Prabhakar,** a lean, tall and imposing man, in a black Nawabi Sherwani, who hailed from Akkalkot, near Solapur in Maharashtra and who had been in the service of Taj Hotels for well over two decades. **His bearing clearly suggested that more than a trace of the elan and refinement of the royals, who once dwelt in the Palace, had soaked into his personality.** Being a most patient and obliging man, he was kind enough to answer all our questions and point out to us every one of the unique features of the Palace.

It was built in the year 1894, at a cost of forty lakh rupees by **Sir Viqar-ul-Umra,** the then Prime Minister of **Mahbub Ali Khan Bahadur,** the sixth Nizam and handed over to his master, who fell in love with it when he once went there, as a guest, upon invitation. We were told that the Taj Group took a full ten years to get the Palace refurbished, at a whopping cost of rupees eighty crore. But the time and effort have visibly been well spent. Most notably, its magnificent library with its entire collection of nearly six thousand rare books, has been retained intact.

My wife and I were so charmed by our tour of the magnificent edifice that we chose to go there again for dinner, the next evening. Had we gone there as State guests, we would perhaps have had an opportunity to sit down for this repast, at the main dining table of the Palace, that is reputed to be the longest in the world and which can seat a hundred and one guests.

But being lesser mortals, we had to be content with dining at Adaa, the restaurant which serves traditional Indian Cuisine. But still, it was and will remain, a most memorable experience for the two of us, for a long time to come!

e-mail:
kjnmysore@rediffmail.com

Prize-winners of Sri V. Siddharthacharry Memorial English Declamation Fest

The prize-winners of English Declamation Fest are seen with (from left) Acharya Vidya Kula Principal B.T. Sarojini, Judges Muktha Sen & M. Lakshmi and Vice-Principal A.B. Nalini.

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Acharya Vidya Kula, Mysuru, hosted the fourth Sri V. Siddharthacharry Memorial English Declamation Fest in city recently.

The event was open to students of Classes VIII and IX. In all, 36 participants from nine schools participated in the Declamation Competition.

Muktha Sen, Assistant Professor in English, Department of Languages, Amrita School of Arts, Humanities and Commerce and M. Lakshmi, Assistant Professor in Communication Skills, Amrita School of Arts, Humanities and Commerce, Mysuru, were the Judges.

The Rolling Shield was won by St. Joseph's Central School, Vijayanagar, Mysuru.

The prize-winners of the competition are as follows:

VIII standard

First prize: M. Hemamrutha of Acharya Vidya Kula, Mysuru.

Second prize: S. Chinmayee of St Joseph's Central School, Mysuru.

Third prize: Bhavan Ramesh of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru.

IX standard

First prize: Ilavika Mrnalini of St Joseph's Central School, Mysuru.

Second prize: Y. Pradyumna Bhat of BVB, Mysuru.

Third prize: R. Preksha of Acharya Vidya Kula, Mysuru.

LINGUISTIC HUMOUR

DOUBLE POSITIVE

A Linguistics Professor was lecturing in his English class one day.

"In English," he said, **"a double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language in which a double positive can form a negative."**

A voice from the back of the room piped up: **"Yeah, right!"**

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Crowned 'Mrs. India Corporate Queen'

Mallamma Ganigi (left), a resident of Roopanagar in Mysuru, who represented Karnataka in the 'Mrs. India' competition held at Ranthambore in Rajasthan on Feb. 1 under the slogan 'Age is just number,' was crowned 'Mrs. India Corporate Queen.' There were over 30 contestants in the finale. Daughter of Eshwarappa Ganigi and Satyavva Ganigi of Mamadapur in Gokak taluk, Mallamma (employee of Fidelity Global, Bengaluru) is married to C. Gururaj (employee of TCS, Bengaluru) and has a son, Pradyumna.

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Mount Litera Zee School Celebrates Decennial Year

Mount Litera Zee School (MLZS) commenced its academic activities in the year 2013, under the chairmanship of Dr. Joseph K Thomas, an army veteran, corporate leader, an educationist and **Amazon, Best Selling Author**. His vision and tireless efforts is the reason this edifice of excellence is one of the most sort- after institutions of Mysore.

A highly progressive and enterprising school, MLZS is committed to providing quality education with great emphasis on traditional values. Students are encouraged to think independently and work collaboratively. The institution's pedagogy ensures some of the best teaching practices, while offering learning opportunities to every student which allows them to shape into responsible, empathetic and knowledgeable global citizens. Though the key focus is on academics, MLZS provides a rich program that combines art, craft, culture, technology and sports as part of the curriculum. MLZS offers a safe and secure learning environment and encourages students to balance a myriad of co-curricular opportunities along with academic excellence to fulfill their dreams.

Touching Lives: "Happiness results from what we give and not from what we get" As part of the Decennial Celebrations of MLZS, Founder and Chairman Dr. Joseph K Thomas honoured 5 faculty members who have been with the institution through thick and thin for the last decade with traditional Mysore Peta , Garland, Shawl and Goodwill of Rs. 1 Lakh/each. Along with the faculty, **10 Army veterans** were also honoured on the grand Decennial Celebration Day with traditional Mysore Peta , garland, shawl and goodwill of Rs.25,000/ each. MLZS truly stands up to 'Excellence in everything and everything with Excellence'.

AY 2023-2024: The CBSE curriculum is aligned with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Math Whizz: To understand MATH better, improve concentration, mental calculation and enable brain development, MLZS offers certification courses in Abacus (Grades 1-4) and Vedic Math (Grades 5-7)

Start them Young: The unique program focuses on higher order thinking skills from Grade I onwards to enable students to get high scores in competitive exams like NEET, CET, JEE and other top entrance exams.

Artificial Intelligence: AI is now a part of the curriculum, in order to make a significant impact on the students' educational journey and prepare them to face the challenges of the present times.

Experiential Learning: The well-equipped and cutting-edge laboratories for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Math, Computer and Languages cater to every need of students to explore, experiment and innovate.

Reading Hub: The well-stocked library is a treat to every student and helps to inculcate reading habit in them.

Next Step: The Career Guidance Program of MLZS is a platform designed to introduce various career options to students and guide them to careers of their interest where students interact with professionals from different fields and gain functional and practical understanding.

No Bag Day: Every 4th Saturday of the month, the students come to school without their bags & engage themselves in games like Basket ball, Volley ball, Cricket, Golf and indoor games. Coaches for every sport take care of their training.

Competitive Exams: Students are encouraged to participate in SOF Olympiad and Inspire Award Manak and other All India Exams.

Recreation Center: Dance Studio, Art Corner and Music Hub help students to relax and unwind.

Heritage Club: Helps students to say in touch with the rich culture of our country by conducting events like 'Doll Show', 'Id Mubarak', 'Christmas Tree', 'Pookkalam' and field trips to Heritage sites in the city.

Transportation: MLZS buses ply the length and breadth of the city and its suburbs, to transport students to and fro while making safety and punctuality a top priority.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Sharada Nikethana High School
(Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka)

Genius PU College
(Affiliated to Pre-University Board)

Genius First Grade College
(Affiliated to University of Mysore)

EDUCATION DELIVERED IN THE BEST FORM

Education is believed to be the strongest key to a successful future. But, in today's world, it has evolved to become more of a money-generating machine rather than a noble service to society. There has been an exponential growth in the number of universities during the last decade. This enormous growth has transformed the field of education into a competitive market, which in turn has made it lose its core purpose of providing quality education.

In such competitive circumstances, it is surprising to find a person who with her extreme potentials had strived to charter through areas of challenges proceeding with unbridled enthusiasm to change the existing scenario and make a difference in the arena of education. This charismatic and dynamic person is none other than Ms. Surekha Prabhu, the Founder, Principal and Secretary of Genius PU and First Grade College. It would not be an exaggeration to say that she had set a benchmark in her chosen field by proving that anything done with passion, however, challenging it may be, will find success.

The reason behind its quick fame is believed to be its unique approach towards educating students. They believe in the fact that every student carries a different kind of potential which needs to be evoked through determination and passion. All the faculty are well-aware of this core principle of the institution and work towards developing the students by touching almost all aspects of their life.

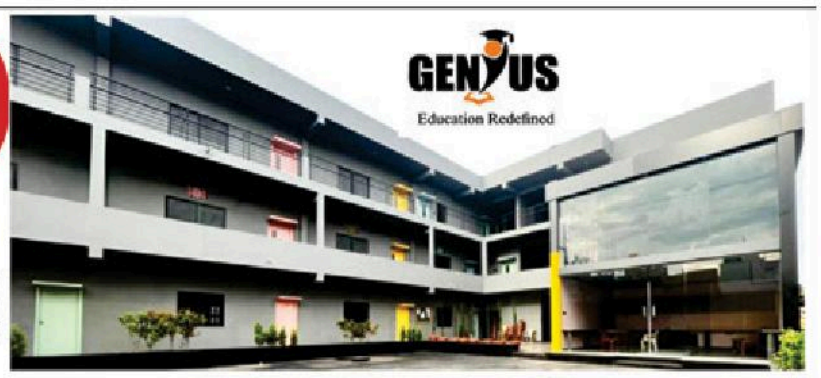
COURSES OFFERED:
1. Bachelors in Commerce
2. Bachelor in Business Administration
3. Bachelor in Computer Application
4. Bachelors in Arts

KEY POINTS :
1. Passionate and welltrained faculty
2. Great environment for studies
3. Proper Infrastructure
4. Practical Laboratories for all
5. Efficient Classrooms

STREAMS OFFERED :
- Science
- Commerce
- Arts

A LONG STREAK OF GETTING 100% RESULTS:

It is always said that passionate leaders always induce the same passion among their subordinates. This seems true in the case of this renowned institution. The staff here are well-trained and carryout the same passion as their leader, which reflects in their results. They are known to have maintained a 100% results in PU and Degree. This is a remarkable achievement and speaks volumes about the reputation of the institutions.



GENIUS FIRST GRADE COLLEGE

G. Prabhu
President

The Genius First Grade College established in the year 2014 is a wing of the great institute which focuses on bringing out future-ready professionals. During an interaction with the management, we could clearly understand their focus and determination towards developing their students for a promising future. It was great to see how each student is given special attention and support to help them resolve all their queries. Their multi-dimensional academic programs help the students to learn the concepts from different perspectives. This in turn helps in raising the intelligence quotient of the students making them more innovative in their respective streams. They encourage the students to work on multiple professional courses and training programs to enable them to grow as efficient individuals. Their passion towards teaching the students seems remarkable and it gives us a sense of happiness to know that such institutes still exist.

GENIUS PU COLLEGE:

The Genius PU College has been counted among the top PU colleges in Mysore. They guide students towards the best career courses according to their interests and skill set. They offer all the mainstream courses available for a pre-university curriculum to ensure that the students can pick the best subjects of their choice. Apart from giving regular classes they also have the best practical laboratories for all departments. These laboratories help students to get a real feel of their particular subjects, thus, enhancing the interest and focus towards their respective subjects.

Mrs Surekha Prabhu
Secretary

TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the pursuit to prepare their students to face the world of competitions, the institute pursues innovative education techniques and training programs. These programs conducted by outstanding professionals enable students to understand the concepts and apply the same efficiently.

Dr Nisha
HOD English Department, 22 years of Experience

Pavithra G
Professor in Hindi 10 years of Experience

Kiran Rao
Lecturer in Physics 10 years of Experience

Sowmya
Lecturer in Biology 9 years of Experience

Rashmi
Lecturer in Kannada 7 years of Experience

Deepthi
Lecturer in Commerce 7 years of Experience

Sneha
Lecturer in Computer Scienc, 5 years of Experience

Dr.Gagan Gowda
Proff in English vice principal 6 years of Experience

Pooja
Lecturer in Mathematics 7 years of Experience

Anupama
Lecturer in Chemistry 5 years of Experience

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

City Police Commissioner Ramesh Banoth

Mysuru city's Police power centre

Calm with an iron palm

Ramesh Banoth watches a movie, meets friends to unwind

By Shadan Muneer

Ramesh Banoth, a 2009 batch IPS Officer and Mysuru City Police Commissioner, comes from a rural background. Born to farmer parents with his roots in rural Telangana, he completed his schooling in Government-owned educational institutions and later earned his engineering degree from JNT University, Hyderabad, after which he successfully cleared the UPSC exam.

Ramesh had earlier served as the SP at Crime Investigation Department (CID) in Bengaluru, SP at Ramanagara and Haveri, DCP Bengaluru City West and DCP Law & Order in Hubballi-Dharwad. Besides performing his dynamic role, he enjoys playing golf and likes spending quality time with family.

Star of Mysore (SOM): Tell us about your formative years.

Ramesh Banoth: I spent my childhood at a village in Telangana that did not have road connectivity with scarce electricity which was quite a challenge but my parents, who were my driving force, instilled discipline early in my life which helped me overcome challenges. We are four siblings who are well-settled. My wife has been a great support all through and I am blessed with two children — a son and a daughter.

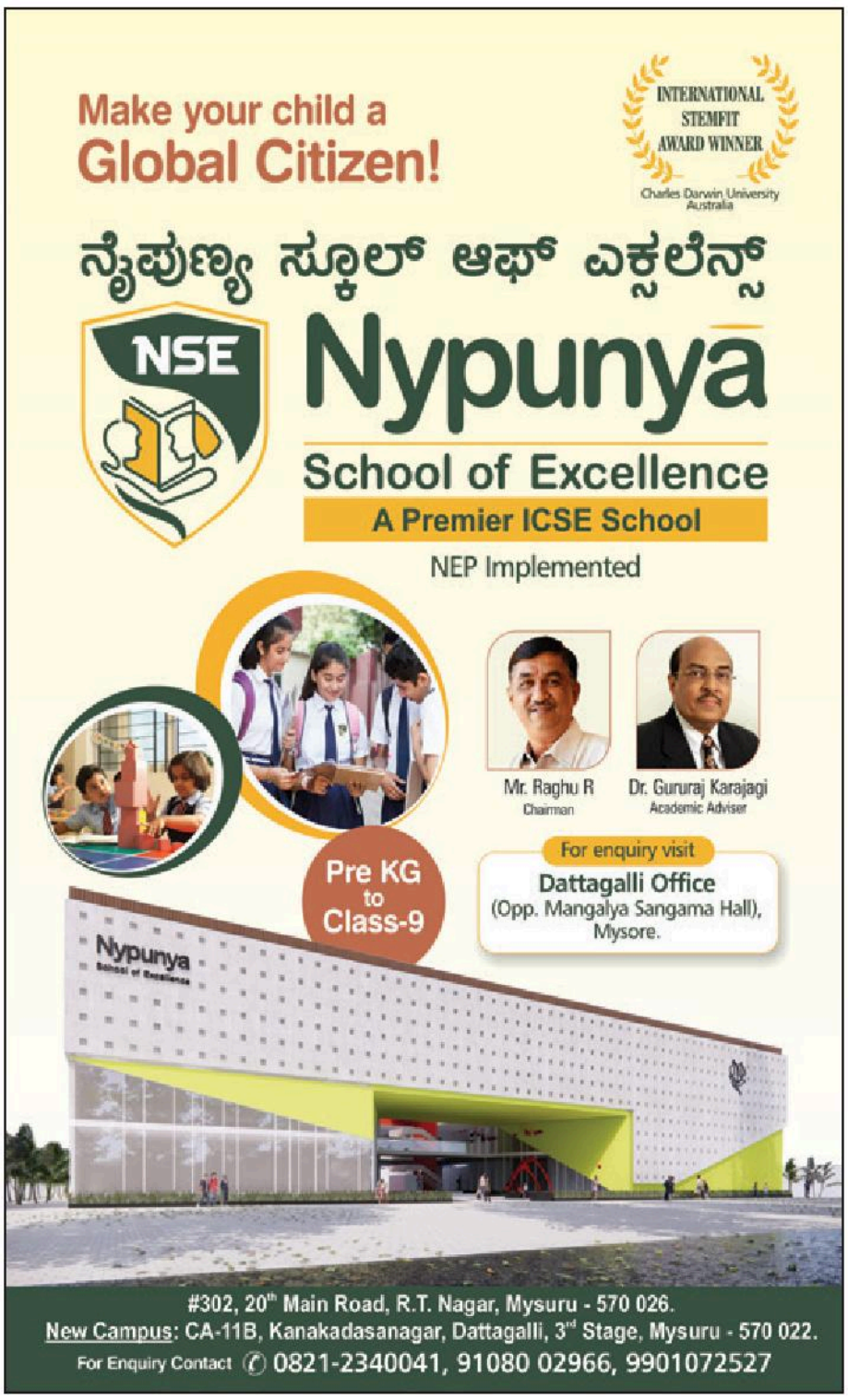
SOM: Scaling greater heights requires sheer dedication and discipline. What has been your biggest motivating factor for achieving these laurels?

Ramesh Banoth: During my formative days there was a stark difference with regard to education between rural and urban children and in rural areas the environment around us acted as a prime motivator. As my parents are agriculturists, the hard work they put in shaped our careers and pushed us to achieve unheralded success. My parents have been my guiding force and they instilled sincerity, hard work and dedication in us at a very early age. My brother is a doctor and both my sisters are engineers and whatever I am today, I owe it to my parents.

SOM: Amidst your hectic work schedule, you also need some activities to unwind. So what are your other interests and hobbies?

Ramesh Banoth: Unwinding is necessary and it keeps you going. Of late, I have developed a liking for golf. I play golf regularly and I am quite enjoying it. I also play tennis and badminton. Besides work, spending time with family is something I look forward to and I also like watching movies.

[Continued on Page - 38]



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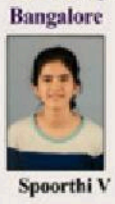
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KCET- 207
JEE: 99.029

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KCET- 271
JEE: 96.256

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A FAMILY of DOCTORS

All FIVE sisters alumni of Mysore Medical College

Dr. N.M. Indira Devi
Batch: 1966-1974

Dr. N.M. Chandramani Devi
Batch: 1971-1978

Dr. N.M. Bhagirathi
Batch: 1975-1980

Dr. N.M. Thara
Batch: 1980-1985

Dr. N.M. Mukthamba
Batch: 1981-1986

By Sujata Rajpal

Many decades ago, long before the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* slogan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, some people were already implementing this. **One such couple was Nanjaiah Marimadaiya (born in 1916) and his wife Javanamma (born in 1930), the residents of N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru, who followed the mission of making their five girl children medical professionals. The couple is deceased now.**

Even though Marimadaiya, who retired as **Accounts Officer at KEB,** was only SSLC pass, and Javanamma had studied till 3rd std., they were aware how education can transform lives, especially of those belonging to the Scheduled Caste category. They had only one wish — to give good education to their children. In those times, not many cared to educate even their sons, forget about educating their girl children. Daughters were married off before they attained puberty.

Marimadaiya (hailing from Banav, a remote village near Talakadu in T. Narasipur taluk) and Javanamma (of Malavalli taluk in Mandya district) struggled, inspired, motivated, made physical and financial sacrifices to give quality education to their seven children (five daughters and two sons). Medical profession had always been considered the noblest, safest and most respectable profession for women, so medicine was the preferred choice for the daughters. **All five are alumni of Mysore Medical College and also pursued Post-Graduation.** The two sons are a Bank Officer and a Marine Engineer.

Even when the children were very young, the parents had decided that their daughters and sons would get high education, and have a career. Good if the marriage happens but that wouldn't be the only objective of their daughters' lives.

"We are living our parents' dream which later became our dream," tells **Dr. N.M. Indira Devi (MBBS, DGO),** the eldest child, a Gynaecologist, who recently retired from Cheluvamba Hospital. "It's only because of the determination and dedication of our parents that we

Nanjaiah Marimadaiya and Javanamma

sisters have carved an identity for ourselves in the society."

Indira Devi got married when she was still in PUC, but marriage did not disturb her life's plans. She completed MBBS and later obtained a Post-Graduate degree from Mysore Medical College.

The second daughter **Dr. N.M. Chandramani Devi,** a Gynaecologist, who worked mainly in the rural areas, decided to tie the knot when she was in her first year of MBBS. She was granted permission to get married only on the condition that she would not only complete her graduation but also pursue Post-Graduation like her elder sister.

The third daughter **Dr. N.M. Bhagirathi,** at whose house in Vijayanagar I met the three of the five sisters, also followed the footsteps of her sisters and opted for Gynaecology as a specialisation. She too recently retired as RMO from Cheluvamba Hospital.

"I had topped the College in MBBS," Dr. Bhagirathi tells, a modest smile playing on her lips. "In childhood, whenever we kids fell ill, mother would take us to Dr. Ankegowda (father of Dr. M.A. Shekar, who is now the Vice-Chancellor of Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagamangala); she was awed by the doctors who went about in white coats (aprons) commanding respect from the patients and their relatives. It raised a dream in mother's eyes — she wanted all her daughters to don the white coat and command respect from society," tells Dr. Bhagirathi, her voice trembling with pride and mixed emotions.

"Because of our lower caste, we were denied opportunities, and looked down upon. Since our childhood, we have seen exploitation around us because of our caste. I remember no maids were willing to work at our home but despite that we (all the seven siblings) have made a place for ourselves in the society."

The next in line is the son **N.M. Prem Shankar,** who retired as a Bank Manager.

Dr. N.M. Thara (MBBS, DPH, MBA), the fourth daughter (fifth child), lives in Mumbai. She retired as the District TB Officer at Bombay Municipal Corporation.

The youngest among daughters (sixth child) **Dr. N.M. Mukthamba (MBBS, DCH),** who resides in Bengaluru, is the Senior Chief Medical Officer at a Central Government Hospital.

N.M. Sridhar, the youngest sibling and the baby of the family, who did Mechanical Engineering from NIE, is a Marine Engineer.

"Our father motivated us, and mother supported us physically by staying awake all night when we burnt the midnight oil literally to study late," tells Chandramani Devi, who is quietest of all the siblings.

[Continued on Page - 25]

ALL IN THE FAMILY: ***Proud mother Javanamma with her seven children — Dr. N.M. Indira Devi, Dr. N.M. Chandramani Devi, Dr. N.M. Bhagirathi, N.M. Prem Shankar, Dr. N.M. Thara Somashekhar, Dr. N.M. Mukthamba and N.M. Sridhar — at the wedding of her grandson B.M. Maneesh with Sridevi (both engineers and settled in USA) in the year 2011.***

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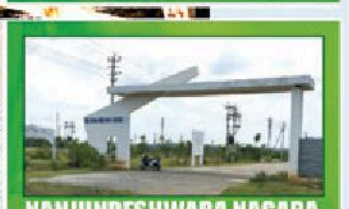

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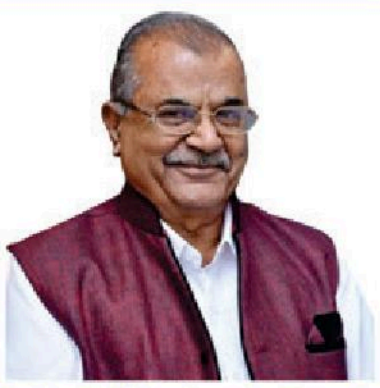

Late Sri Nanjunde Gowda
(Rtd. DY.SP)
NG Developers

Mr T.N. Shashikumar
Managing Director
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MYSOGUS office-bearers

Mysore Organisation of Genito-Urinary Surgeons

*Seen are (from left) **Dr. H.M. Surendra Mohan, Dr. B.R. Ravikumar, Dr. Kumar Raj Urs, Dr. V. Manjunath and Dr. D.N. Somanna.***

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The following were elected as new office-bearers of MYSOGUS (Mysore Organisation of Genito-Urinary Surgeons) for a period of two years at its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) held recently at a city hotel:

Dr. Kumar Raj Urs - President, Dr. B.R. Ravikumar - Secretary and Dr. V. Manjunath -Treasurer. Dr. D.N. Somanna and Dr. H.M. Surendra Mohan were elected as Executive Committee Members.

Speaking on the occasion, the new President Dr. Kumar Raj Urs said that MYSOGUS is an association of Urologists of Mysuru formed in 1990. He said that MYSOGUS will be conducting its annual workshop on 'Advanced Laparoscopic Urology' on April 22 and 23.

He also spoke about conducting regular camps and other patient awareness initiatives to promote the highest standard of Urological Care to Mysuru region.

Library set up at District Hospital

Mysore Heritage Ladies Circle - 109 (MHLC - 109), in association with Mysuru Book Clubs-2015, has set up a library at the District Hospital on KRS Road in Mysuru recently. Seen in the picture are** (from left) **Nursing Officer Sharadha, Member Sangeetha Mannar, Dr. Akhila, District Hospital RMO Dr. Nayaz Pasha, District Surgeon Dr. T. Amarnath, MHLC Chairperson Vinutha Mannar, Book Clubs Founder-Chairperson Shubha Sanjay Urs and Member Komal Kataria.

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

THE NURSE HAS MY TEETH: *As a brain wave technologist, I often ask post-operative patients to smile to make sure their facial nerves are intact. It always struck me as odd to be asking this question right after brain surgery, so a colleague suggested I ask patients to show me their teeth.*

Armed with this new phrase, I said to my next patient, "Mr. Smith, show me your teeth." He shook his head. "The nurse has them!"

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Only studies, no play for doc sisters

[Continued from Page - 22]

"Our parents were middle-class people. **We didn't know life beyond books. No friends, no cosmetics, no movies, no story books or anything.** Only medical books and pep talks to help us stay motivated," the eldest sister Indira Devi explains.

"We had no friends. We were a close-knit family, so we didn't need outside friends. Our father was a disciplinarian, and a man of principle. The home atmosphere was like hostel. We would take a bus or walk to college to save money. **We didn't have too many desires and wants anyway.** Like clothes, books were also passed on, and some they borrowed from the library. Life was only about studying well and becoming a doctor."

As and when the elder siblings started working, they not only guided but also started financially supporting the younger siblings. **And one after another the family produced five doctors and two non-medico professionals.**

Until SSLC, the medium of instruction in the Schools was Kannada. In PUC, they switched to English medium.

"Wasn't the switch from Kannada to English difficult? How did you manage it?" I ask.

"We put in more hours. That's it," the three sisters reply almost in chorus, and look at each other at the absurdity of the question.

Empowerment in true sense

Not just educating their children, Marimadaiya and Javanamma couple was progressive in many other ways. **All seven children got married without any dowry. All daughters except one are married to the medicos.** Also, the daughters didn't change their second name after marriage. They still have their father's name and not husband's name as is the custom in most cultures and communities.

"Interestingly no one objected, neither the in-laws nor husband, they were okay with whatever we wanted," chuckles Bhagirathi.

Author Sujata Rajpal** (second from right) **with** (from left) **Dr. N.M. Indira Devi, Dr. N.M. Chandramani Devi and Dr. N.M. Bhagirathi at the latter's house in Vijayanagar, Mysuru.

"It's not that we would've changed if they wanted to," the other two sisters, now septuagenarians, join the chuckle.

Interestingly but not surprisingly, the next generations have followed in the footsteps of their elders. Most of the siblings' children took up medicine as their profession.

"We are now 18 doctors in the family and many are in the pipeline," Prof. H.B. Mallikaarjuna Swamy (retired Principal, Maharani's Science College), the third son-in-law, chips in.

Wishing the family many more. May their tribe increase.■

Quota candidates: A misconception

"It is true that for our caste, the cut off percentage is low as compared to the general category candidates, but it would be unfair to say that we are not well-qualified. Even in quota, merit list is followed. How about those who get admission under management seat? Not just the seat but candidates also pass by paying money. Sadly, no one talks about that," rue the doctor siblings.

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Mahashivaratri
at city temples

Mysuru, Feb. 16- As part of Mahashivaratri celebrations, devotees can have *darshan* at Sri Trineshwaraswamy Temple in the Palace pre-mises from 6 am on Feb. 18. Special pujas, abhishekas and *prasada* distribution has been arranged. The presiding deity of the temple will be adorned with 'Golden Mask' *(Chinnada Kolaga)* from 7 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 8 pm.

Also, special pujas, abhishekas and prasada distribution has been arranged at Sri Kameshwara Kameshwari Temple on Ramanuja Road besides cultural programmes in the evening.

At Chandramouliswara Swamy Temple

Devotees can have *darshan* at Chandramouliswara Swamy Temple in V.V. Mohalla from 6 am on Feb. 18 to 6 am on Feb. 19.

Abhisheka will be performed at 8 am, 10.30 am, 12.30 pm, 6 pm, 9.30 pm, midnight of Feb. 18 and 3.30 am on Feb. 19, according to Chandramouliswara Swamy Devasthanam Charitable Trust, VV Mohalla.

No Meat Sale

Mysuru, Feb. 16- On account of Mahashivaratri, all slaughter houses and meat stalls coming under Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) limits have been instructed to shut shops on Feb. 18. Hence, there will be no sale of meat on that day, according to MCC Health Officer.

St. Lawrence International School is the largest IGCSE school in Mysore

We at St. Lawrence ensure that the curriculum that is taught both within the classroom and beyond should create an environment where questioning, academic risk-taking, divergent thinking and learning from mistakes are encouraged.

Our aim is to produce global citizens who analyse, synthesise, communicate and have the ability to solve unfamiliar problems creatively i.e. students are trained to acquire and hone their thinking skills, content knowledge and social and emotional competencies. Bringing back the children into the classrooms post -COVID came with their own set of problems, however having only **20 children in** class made it easier to pay attention to their needs and to suit /modify the teaching to fill the learning gaps.

To further help support the children, mentorship programme was introduced. The children who are weak in a subject or have not understood a concept are encouraged to approach the teacher with their problems .The classes are also aimed towards satisfying the needs of the different learning groups. Kinesthetic,visual and auditory.

We offer 9 subjects English, Mathematics, science, Social studies(global perspectives), Digital literacy,Computing, Music, Art and design ,Physical education. Second languages offered are Hindi, kannada and French, **Trained teachers and teachers assistants** are always present to teach help and guide the children. Programmes that we offer are in line with our motto of encouraging holistic development of the children.

MUSIC,PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND DIGITAL LITERACY

"Those who wish to sing always find a song" quote Unknown. Music teachers in school are all trained teachers from the famous **Trinity College of Music, London.** AS a part of the curriculum, children learn theory of music in class and are also groomed to take up music further if they choose to do so. We have dedicated teachers who teach the students from the basics, during **"after school activities"**. This takes place from 2.30 to 3.30 P.M in the afternoon. The Children can choose from six instruments –Keyboard, Piano, Guitar, Violin, Drums and Ukulele or Voice training.The Child can take up the class once or twice a week.

We will help train those children who would wish to take up exams from Trinity.

A salient feature of our school is a **well-equipped music studio complete with a recording studio.** The children love this feature and are willing to put in extra hours of practise needed to record. The children will record and release their own album this year, a unique learning experience indeed for all the children.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education being a part of the curriculum encourages in the children a love for the outdoor. In class, they are taught the importance of eating right and having a balanced meal, which when combined with the

right amount of physical exercise leads to a healthy child and inculcates in them a valuable life lesson. Again, we offer a wide range of **after school activities** in sports which are aimed at those children who love the outdoors and prefer to learn Sports.

Trained teachers take classes for Swimming, athletics, football, basketball, Karate and Badminton. The children are taught from the basics and the teachers, also emphasize on and help the children develop strength and stamina. Outdoor activities are regularly arranged for the children -the hugely popular boot camp at Chamundi hills (where Children participated along with their parents), an inter house Tug-of-War competition and also a health march organised to increase the health awareness among the children (the children walk for 2 K.Ms) are just few of the activities done by the children. Dance is taught in school as a part of Physical education. It is also one of

thereafter-school activities -we teach the children

House and Hip-Hop dance forms.

Thus covering a wide spectrum of activities which caters to a wide range of interests of the children, hoping to encourage them to explore and learn more than just schoolwork.

DIGITAL LITERACY

Robotics has been integrated into the curriculum and is taught under digital literacy. Children are taught to build age appropriate models from the kits that are provided. Team Kidvento, who are our partners in this, come in and guide the children in their endeavours children can spend many happy hours learning to build numerous interesting models with the kit provided.

As the standard of English is high, we have introduced English language lab for the Children. Listening, Reading, Writing and speaking all the skills are emphasised on. Based on the CEFR levels, the lab has helped the children immensely. The inbuilt recording feature present is a favourite of all the children. Tabs are usually sent home, whenever homework is set for lang. lab to help children complete their work. Various competitions are conducted regularly like pick and speak debate and quiz contest. All are house based and children try hard to get points for their houses. The Hours of fun are planned alongside learning activities. Since they happen alongside, the learning experience is enhanced.

Art and Design

Since it's a subject, theory and practical are both taught. New art forms will be introduced as a part of Afternoon activities for those children who want to develop their artistic abilities from the next academic year. Some of the activities planned are- Clay modelling, relief work, gouache painting, glass painting, decoupage and paper quilling.

TEACHERS REQUIRED

walk -in interview on 16th Thursday & 17th Friday 2023,
timing 10.00AM to 3.00PM
•Science •Social Studies
•English •Hindi •French

Best Wishes to **STAR OF MYSORE** on the occasion of its 46th Anniversary

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Mahashivaratri

Two-wheelers banned at MM Hills

Chamarajanagar, Feb.16- Deputy Commissioner D.S. Ramesh has temporarily banned entry of two-wheelers to MM Hills from Feb.17 to 21 in view of Mahashivaratri Jatra.

Lakhs of devotees visit MM Hills during Shivaratri from neighbouring districts. To avoid large number vehicles at the Hill, which has narrow roads with sharp curves, entry of two-wheelers has been banned from 6 am on Feb.17 till 7 pm on Feb.21.

DC Ramesh has stated in a press release that parking facility for two-wheelers will be provided at Kowdalli Gram Panchayat limits in Hanur.

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NEPAL 5 NIGHTS 6 DAYS 8 DEPARTURES PLANNED TOURS MARCH, APRIL, MAY
BHUTAN 7 NIGHTS 8 DAYS 8 DEPARTURES PLANNED TOURS IN APRIL, MAY
ULTIMATE EUROPE 17 NIGHTS 18 DAYS PLANNED TOURS FROM APRIL TO JUNE
UNBELIEVABLE EUROPE 13 NIGHTS 14 DAYS PLANNED TOURS FROM APRIL TO JUNE
UNBEATABLE EUROPE 9 NIGHTS 10 DAYS PLANNED TOURS FROM APRIL TO JUNE
DUBAI 4 NIGHTS 5 DAYS PLANNED TOURS FROM FEB, MARCH.
JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOMS 7 NIGHTS 8 DAYS PLANNED TOURS APRIL
SINGAPORE MALAYSIA THAILAND 10 NIGHTS 11 DAYS PLANNED TOURS FROM APRIL TO JUNE
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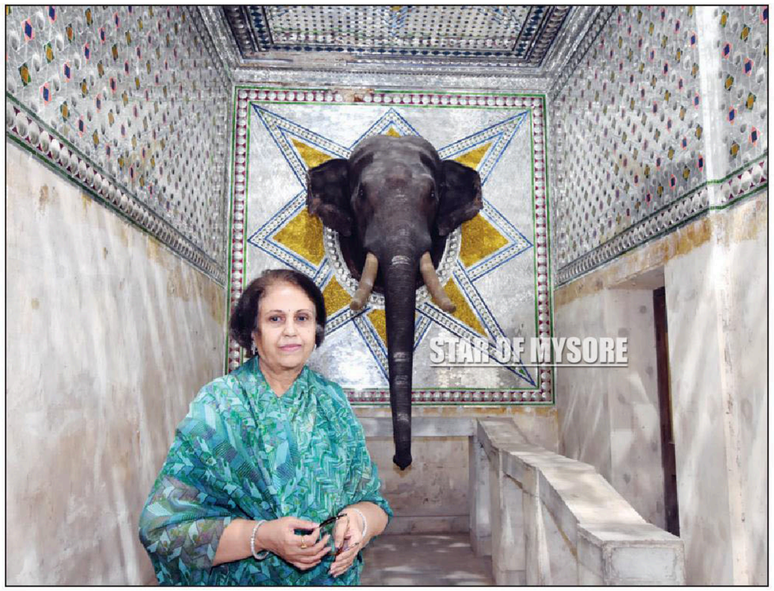
Securing Royal Legacy

After the passing away of the scion of Mysore Royal Family Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, his wife Pramoda Devi Wadiyar had embarked on a mission not only to restore her late husband's dream projects but also to protect his properties.

This journey has led her to secure the helipad and also the Devikere. She has also won cases concerning Survey No. 4 extending to thousands of acres and also the ownership of Chamundi Hill !

In a candid chat with *Star of Mysore* Managing Editor Vikram Muthanna, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar speaks about Rajendra Vilas Palace on the Hill and, most importantly, plans for Survey No. 4 and the Chamundi Hill.



Vikram Muthanna: Mr. Wadiyar wanted to restore Rajendra Vilas Palace to its old glory, and now you too are trying to do the same. Why?

Pramoda Devi: It was his dream project and I want to take it forward. Also, I like doing this kind of restoration work but finding artisans who do such skilled work is difficult. But most of the ceiling work has been done.

Unfortunately, there has been some damage but we will have to figure out a way to fix it. For now, my primary intention is to prevent damage to the Palace because of the weathering.

Vikram: Is the Palace structurally sound?

Pramoda Devi: Yes, it absolutely is. There was some damage caused due to the construction of the parking area atop the Hill when dynamite was used to break rocks. This has affected the Palace as the site is so close to us. It may not have damaged the building as such, but it has caused some plaster cracks here and there. For now, my main intention is to safeguard the domes.

Vikram: Do you ever feel it would be better to lease out this Palace to hotel groups like Taj or Oberoi like other royal families?

Pramoda Devi: I'm not a marketing person and I'm not good at marketing. I could use certain groups for marketing. But running and maintaining, I like to do that myself. If I give this to someone else, for them it will be a job. But for me, this is a labour of love.

Goddess Chamundeshwari has been extremely kind and given me courage. I get the right guidance at the right time. She gives me the resources to do whatever I can. I cannot take up everything simultaneously.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar showing the ongoing renovation works at Rajendra Vilas Palace atop Chamundi Hill to Star of Mysore Managing Editor Vikram Muthanna.

Vikram: Your other property, the Gun House, do you plan to restore and rejuvenate it too?

Pramoda Devi: Somebody was keen to run it for me in between, but there is a problem now. It takes a lot of resources to restore these properties. I haven't taken any finances from anywhere. And you know what kind of difficult times I went through after my husband passed away. Maintaining the staff, and the properties, it's a lot of pressure.

But somehow, God has been extremely kind. And she (Goddess Chamundeshwari) has given me courage. I get the right guidance at the right time. And she gives me the resources to do whatever I can. So, I have to use my resources wisely to do all this. I cannot take up everything simultaneously. I'll have to wait. Finish one by one.

Vikram: Do you have any timeline for completion of Rajendra Vilas Palace?

Pramoda Devi: I usually don't keep a timeline. It's difficult to work with a timeline when it comes to heritage structures. If you do something here, the consequences are felt in some other place in the structure. It's constant fixing until it all stabilises. That said, I would like to finish it as quickly as possible because I have to take up many other things.

Vikram: Speaking of so many other things, you recently won the Survey Number 4 case. Then, it is said that according to the Instrument of Accession Treaty, Chamundi Hill belongs to the Royal Family. So, instead of the Muzrai Department, will you manage the Temple from now on?

Pramoda Devi: After Survey Number 4 victory, I still don't have my property. As you know, recently Devikere work was started. But how can you work on someone else's property? Is it fair? I was shocked.

I was away for 15 days in Jodhpur and Delhi, and then I came. The first thing I saw is the Devikere news in your newspaper. I was shocked to read the whole thing. I cannot imagine the elected representatives doing these things without checking.

I came for last year's Teppotsava at Devikere. There is nothing that is required to do there. They have broken a wall. I don't know how much it may cost. I have to look into how much it might cost to rebuild the damaged wall.

Vikram: And the Royal Family owns the Chamundeshwari Temple?

Pramoda Devi: No, rather the deity owns the Temple. It is just the right to manage the Temple as the Managing Trustees. As far as ownership is concerned, it is the deity.

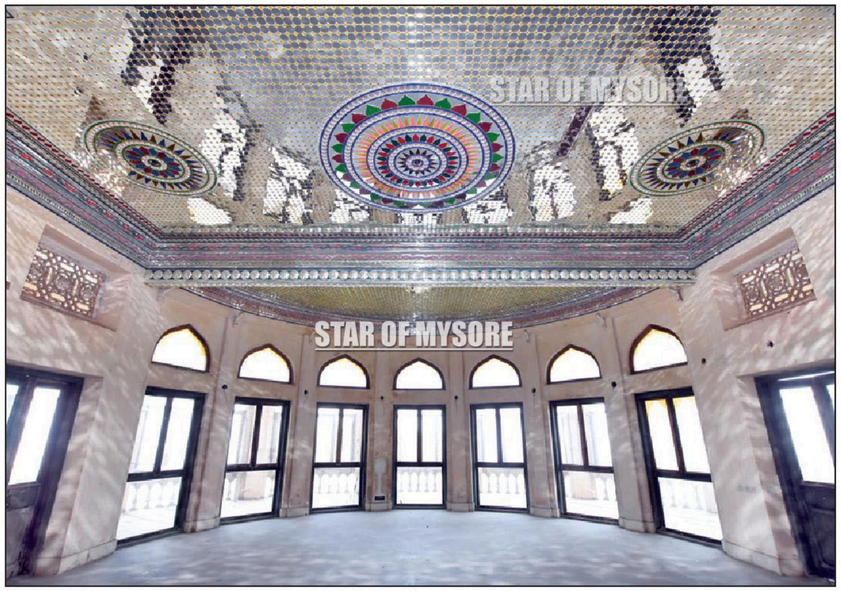
Vikram: You have locked the gate to Devikere...

Pramoda Devi: That gate was made 30 years ago and was locked earlier. Sorry to say this, but the Police only broke the gate years ago. We just ignored it and left it unlocked. But after the recent Devikere incident, I got the gate fixed and locked it.

Vikram: According to the Instrument of Accession Treaty, Chamundi Hill belongs to the Royal Family. Am I correct?

Pramoda Devi: Partly. I have to go through the details, but there is mention of Chamundi Hill because Lalithadri Cottage belongs to that. But what is the use?

The Government went to the Divisional Bench, and they lost the case. They went to the Supreme Court and lost the case, but they have no respect for the Court order and they have not complied with it.



I will not restrict access to Chamundi Hill and the temple. Deity is for all, no matter which class or where ever they are from. That said, I will definitely protest unscientific development works atop the Hill.

Vikram: Many are worried that if Devikere gate can be locked, will access to the Temple and Hill also be restricted?

Pramoda Devi: I am not that kind of a person. The deity is for all, no matter which class or wherever they are from. That said, I will definitely protest unscientific development. The ropeway, I protested. Everyone protested. Now I hear that they are bringing it back under Gati Shakti as of last week.

Vikram: Since the claim is that the Hill belongs to the Royal Family, what happens to the people living atop the Hill? How will you handle that?

Pramoda Devi: I have to examine the whole thing. As of now, I am taking care of Devikere and the unauthorised construction around it because the Government needs to check who the land belongs to before they take up work.

Also, on the Hill, other owners own small bits of land. So, I need to look at the holistic view of that. But right now, I'm very confident of the Temple, so I am proceeding as the case is anyway pending.

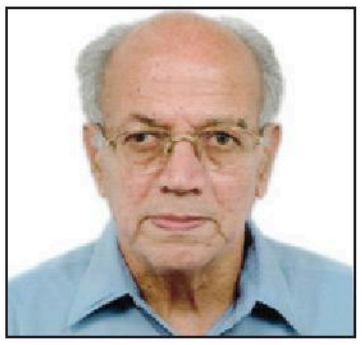
[Continued on Page - 36]

Taking a trip down the memory lane...

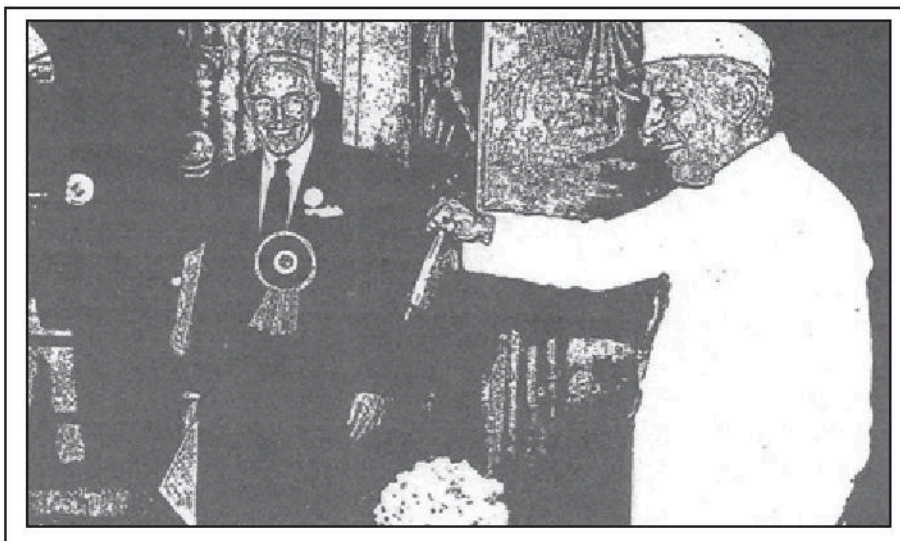
The late scion of Mysore Royal Family Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar in front of the Rajendra Vilas Palace atop the Chamundi Hill in 2008. Restoring the lost legacy of the Palace was one of his pet projects and he had made elaborate plans for the same. With his untimely demise, his wife Pramoda Devi Wadiyar has taken up the strings from where her husband had left, with the same passion and detail. In her own words, for her, this is a labour of love.

[Pics. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

Nehru the First Prime Minister at Lalitha Mahal Palace in 1958 and a Missed Photo...



By H.K. Shivananda
I.A.S.(Retd)., Ex-Administrator, MCC
and Ex-Director, ATI, Mysuru



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurates the Tenth International Conference of Agricultural Economists. (Dr. Elmhirst, Founder-President of the Conference, watching). Reproduced alongside is how Nehru began his address at the Conference in Mysuru 65 years ago.

Amongst the several Palaces built by Wadiyars in Mysuru City, Lalitha Mahal is the second biggest Palace after Mysore Palace and has a grandeur and beauty of its own. Built in twenties of last century for the exclusive use of Viceroy for his stay at Mysuru as and when he visited, at a cost of Rs. 13 lakh on a total area of 81 acres, it was subsequently used as a Guest House for European Guests of Maharaja visiting Mysuru. Its architecture has a similarity with that of St. Paul's Cathedral London. It came to the control of State Government in 1973 and was run as a Heritage Hotel by ITDC as part of Ashoka Group from 1974 to 2018. Karnataka Government took it back in 2018 and Jungle Lodges and Resorts, a State Government undertaking, is managing it now.

An International Conference of Agricultural Economists was held for 10 days in Lalitha Mahal Palace between 24th August and 3rd September, 1958. Sixty leading Economists and 70 Nations from all over the world participated in this Conference. This was hosted jointly by Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Mysore Government as it was known then and Ford Foundation financed it at a cost of 40,000 US Dollars.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister, came all the way from Delhi to inaugurate the Conference at Lalitha Mahal. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, the Governor of Mysore, welcomed the delegates. A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture and B.D. Jatti, Chief Minister of Mysore State, also addressed the gathering.

Delegates had been accommodated in different Guest Houses and leading hotels all over Mysore city. Economics Department of Maharaja's College was asked to depute dozen students to serve as volunteers in this Conference mainly to assist the delegates in their daily chore, escort them from their place of stay to Lalitha Mahal, venue of the Conference and back, take them around city for sight-seeing, shopping etc.

I had just then passed out of Maharaja's College in July 1958 with a First Class in M.A. Economics. My batch-mates had gone back to their native places. My father H.K. Rajashekaraiya, working in the rank of Superintendent of Police, had retired as Principal, Police Training College, Mysore, in 1957 and settled down at Nazarbad in a house opposite to Sowcar Channaiya's Bungalow (Heritage Mansion now). Hence, I was very much available in Mysore City and my Professor G.T. Hutchappa, who knew this, asked me to join the Volunteers Team as a leader and I happily agreed.

Nehru, who came to inaugurate the Conference, was Prime Minister of the country for more than eleven years at that time and was almost the uncrowned King for masses and was at the zenith of his popularity... As a first Prime Minister of the country, he led the country with great distinction and vision and laid a strong foundation for its future development. He was an idealist in thinking, democrat to the core, secular in outlook and respected opposite leaders as much as his own party men.

Whatever the present day non-Congress politicians may accuse, people of our generation strongly believe that India was lucky to have a man of that calibre and stature as Prime Minister in first seventeen years after Independence. We are ever grateful to him as we reaped the fruits of his policy.

He may have made mistakes in his policy on Kashmir or Tibet. **But his achievements far outweigh the mistakes he committed.** If his daughter-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was later dictatorial and anti-democratic, the fault is hers and Nehru cannot be blamed.

We the volunteers were very happy to associate ourselves with this Conference and opportunity to see and mingle with the top leaders from close quarters.

> "It was a year ago that Dr. Elmhirst invited me to attend this Conference and inaugurate it. It seemed to me rather odd that he should mention this matter to me so far ahead. But as you know, he does look ahead and with his usual foresight he tried to tie me down to this engagement before there was any possibility of my saying that I was too busy. But in any event I would have gladly accepted his invitation, partly because of my deep interest in the subjects which you discuss, and partly because Dr. Elmhirst is an old friend and India owes a great deal to him. So, now that I am here, I am glad of it, and **may I congratulate whoever may be responsible for choosing this gracious and attractive city of Mysore for this Conference...**"

On the night, State Dinner was given to Prime Minister Nehru and delegates in Lalitha Mahal Banquet Hall. I was waiting with few volunteers near Reception Counter chatting loudly. Suddenly, Nehru appeared before us from nowhere and came straight to us. Those days, terrorism being not known, Prime Ministers and VIPs moved more freely without any escort or SPG men surrounding them. We were taken aback by Nehru's sudden appearance before us and stopped talking.

[Continued on Page - 32]

H.K. Shivananda** (fifth from right - back row - only face and tie visible), **the then Director of Employment and Training, Karnataka, and as a participant of International Workshop, called on Indira Gandhi in 1975 at the PM's residence in Delhi along with the delegates.

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Career development programs:

Daksha would associate with various prestigious companies& NGOs for INTERNSHIPS, PROJECTS, and PLACEMENTS

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- Transport facility, with college bus operating along all prominent routes and between the hostel blocks;
- Evening study hours, in the presence of lecturers, to tutor and clarify students' doubts;
- Cafeteria, designed, furnished, and maintained to be clean, hygienic and eco-friendly;
- Sports, Yoga and Fitness Activities;
- Green parks and quiet study areas;

DEEP LEARNING-Value addition, career oriented short term courses of International Organizations: Interested students and professionals will be assisted in online courses, sponsored and promoted by World Bank and United Nations Organizations -- WHO, UNITAR, UNEP, UNICEF and IMF, Besides, Aviation, Airport, and Airline related courses of IATA and generic value additional modules of Airports Council International are offered.

Dedicated study hours: Students are encouraged to thrive on a stimulating environment, by providing early morning & evening study hours with our lecturers present till 10.30pm to tutor and clarify all their doubts.

Health & Fitness Center: Health center with a qualified and dedicated nurse is available round the clock to provide first aid, emergency care, periodical inspection of hostels, kitchen and dining areas for hygiene, food quality and nutrition as necessary for the well-being of students and staff.

Toppers

Ms. GNANASHREE M 597/600 (99.50%) | Ms. LIKHITHA RANI L 596/600 (99.33 %) | Mr. PRAJWAL P 596/600 (99.33%) | Mr. Vishwalochan K 592/600 (98.66%) | Mr. Keerthan C M 589/600 (98.16 %) | Ms. Arbia Zabi 583/600 (97.16%)

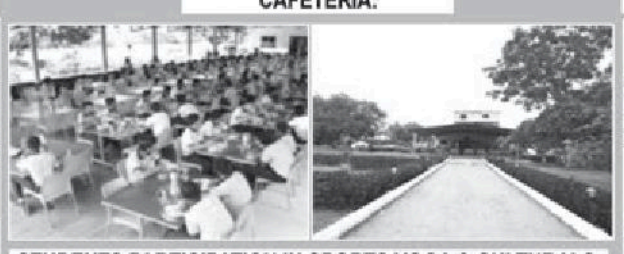
commerce Toppers

Ms. Shivasai t s 591/600 (98.5%) | Ms. Lakshika Choyal 591/600 (98.5%) | Ms. Lakshmishree G K 584/600 (97.33%) | Mr. Rakesh Raj R 583/600 (97.17%)

Infrastructure & Facilities photos for reference

CLASS ROOM & LAB:

CAFETERIA:



HOSTEL BLOCK:

STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS,YOGA & CULTURALS:

Study Tours & International Excursions:

The institution supports organized study tours and international excursions for experimental learning and practical exposure internationally.

Mr.Abhishek M
Principal,
Daksha PU College,
Mysuru

Daksha PU College: Daksha PU College recognizes the struggles and challenges students have experienced over the past in academics and their wellbeing. We are committed to supporting holistic development and growth of our student community to propel forward to a brighter and more equitable future. The highlights of Daksha PU College is the intertwined schedule of class room sessions, study hours focused on individual student attention & care, intensive practice of Board, CET, NEET & JEE examination formats, sports, culture, social and environment exposure and practice.

Dr.Ramya R
Principal
Daksha First Grad College, Mysuru

Daksha PU College: "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think". A dynamic wide range of curriculum is what is needed to make our learning more apt to reach global standards for changing times. At DAKSHA, our academic excellence will enhance students in developing multifaceted competence to meet societal and industry standards.

Dr.Prathima V
Director - Daksha Research Centre
Daksha College, Mysuru

Daksha PU College: Daksha has recently got recognized as one of the research centers by the University of Mysore (UoM), Mysuru to offer Doctoral [Ph.D.] Programs. Daksha Research Center (DRC) enhances the professional assistance and guidance to the research aspirants in the area of Commerce & Management. The successful research works will be awarded the Doctoral Degree by the University of Mysore.

Mr.Ratnakar Shanbhag
Director - Development
Daksha College,
Mysuru

Daksha Development Wing: We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. We are living in a fast changing world, a changing society, progressing at a galloping speed, impact of science, research, technological development, globalization on our daily life is vibrant and unavoidable. Keeping this in mind at DAKSHA we always focus on providing quality education by nurturing, caring, supporting environment with excellent infra-structure, teaching aid, laboratories and mentoring of students through which we can produce good human beings and leaders for the country.

Message from Trustees-Global Education Trust

Education is the basis of all progress. Its purpose is to inculcate humanitarian values, wisdom, compassion, courage and reliability in students. Academic excellence along with active participation in plethora of activities complete the process of education and it gives us immense pleasure that DAKSHA is progressing in all its endeavors towards the overall development of the students. A salubrious campus, the latest in technology and the best of curriculum define the contours of Daksha. You would certainly find it rewarding as you journey along with us into the realms of higher education. The journey does not end here... for in the years to come, as we traverse the extra mile, we endeavor to make Daksha, a global reference in the academic.

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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

A Missed Photo...

*H.K. Shivananda (extreme right), **the then Divisional Commissioner of Belgaum, receiving Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister, in 1988-89 at Belgaum when the PM attended the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Jawaharlal Medical College, Belgaum.***

[Continued from Page - 30]

Nehru with his radiant smile said, "Talk, Talk, why did you stop?" But we were too overwhelmed with joy to see him so close and did not open our mouth.

Nehru asked me why we are there and he just moved on listening to my explanation for our presence and wished us well. It all happened in a minute or two, as he moved on with his retinue of dignitaries.

Professional photographers used to cover such Conferences taking any number of photos, develop them and keep it for sale for those interested. Next day as I was looking casually at such photos spread on a table for sale, **I was pleasantly surprised to see my photo speaking to the Prime Minister of the country,** a much admired leader and hero of our times, from such close quarters. It was priced at one rupee and I thought of buying. But my volunteer-friend next to me said, why waste one rupee? You can eat *masala dosa* for four days with that money (Those days *masala dosa* was priced at 25 paisa).

At that moment, I also never realised or visualised the significance of preserving such a photo with me as a life-long treasure.

There is a saying, "Youth is a blunder, Manhood is a struggle and Old age is regret." By not purchasing that photo, I committed a Himalayan blunder on that day and regret even now.

Though I missed my photo with the first Prime Minister of the first dynasty of the country, as I worked in Administrative Service of the country later, I got an opportunity to have photos with the second and third Prime Ministers (Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi) of this dynasty. Now I am biding my time to have a photo with the likely fourth Prime Minister from this dynasty, provided God keeps me alive that long and ever-hesitant Rahul Gandhi accepts to lead the party and become Prime Minister at least for a day for my sake if not for the Party and the country !

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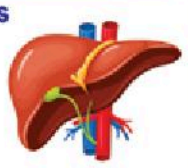

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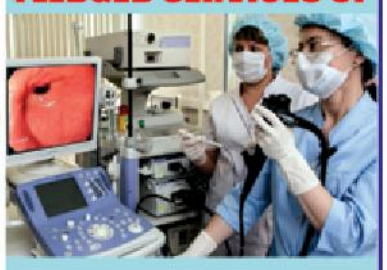

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Dr. Manikarnika's book released

Block Education Officer (BEO) Lokesh released the book** 'Eleyara nade inde tiddona,' **authored by Dr. H.R. Manikarnika, senior eye specialist, Mysuru at Kannada Sahitya Parishat in Pandavapura recently. The contents of the book about guiding the children on the right path in life was appreciated by all.

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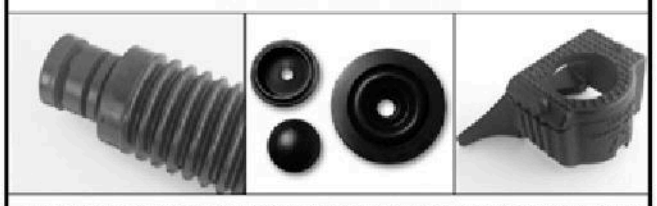
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The Sunshine Lady

By Dr. Veena Bharathi

Dr. Arundhathi Murthy

> "She was the very first DGO (Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and MD (OBG) qualified woman to be appointed as Lady Probationary Medical Officer and later on as the Associate Professor in the Department of OBG, Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysuru, between 1961 and 1966."

When the lady doctor, a well-known OBG professor met with a car accident near Maddur in July 1979, she was in the prime of her exceptional medical career, at the age of 44 years. A severe spinal injury in her neck left her nearly paralysed from her neck down (quadriplegia).

Dr. Arundhathi was the first DGO (Diploma in Gynaecology and Obstetrics) and MD (OBG) qualified woman to be appointed as Lady Probationary Medical Officer and later as Associate Professor in Department of OBG in Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysuru, between 1961 and 1966.

Arundhathi had lost her mother when she was just one-and-a-half years of age, when her mother died in her subsequent delivery, due to child-birth related complications. It was Arundhathi's father who motivated her. Her father Gundappa Shetty told Arundhathi, "You should become a doctor and serve womenfolk by becoming an OBG specialist!"

Arundhathi, born in the conservative Vyshya community at Huliyar village of Tumkur, became a first rank holder in the Andhra matriculation examination (her father was in a transferable Government job as the Deputy Director of the Postal and Telegraph Department.)

She meritoriously completed her MBBS degree (as the only successful lady candidate in her batch) from the Government Medical College, Guntur, in 1958. After finishing her DGO, Dr. Arundhathi got her first professional posting in the Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysuru, in 1961.

In 1960, Arundhathi got married to Dr. R.S.K. Murthy (who was the Professor of Medicine at K.R. Hospital, Mysuru), who had gone to Guntur from Karnataka, on deputation. Dr. Murthy is a gold medallist from Mysore Medical College (MMC), who received the gold medal from Jayachamaraja Wadiyar.

During her posting in Mysuru, Dr. Arundhathi was permitted to pursue her MD-OBG in Visakhapatnam, which was of one-year duration. (She had also passed the ECFMG examination in 1962 itself, which was the essential entrance examination if an MBBS doctor wanted to pursue higher studies in the US).

In the MD-OBG exam final, of the 25 candidates, who had appeared for the exam, Dr. Arundhathi was the only woman who could pass in her first attempt.

When she rejoined the Cheluvamba Hospital in 1964, she created the milestone of the first MD-OBG qualified woman to become the Associate Professor in that Department, specifically with labour room in-charge responsibility. In mid 1966, she was transferred to Hubli.

Says her son Dr. Ramesh Makam (a reputed laparoscopic and bariatric surgeon in Bengaluru): "When my mother met with the tragic car accident near Maddur in July 1979, she was on her way to meet her senior Dr. Savithri in Mysuru. At that time, my mother was working at Kidwai Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru as a Professor and Head of the Women's Cancer Wing. I just then had got selected for the first year MBBS at JJM Medical College, Davangere."

Soon after the car accident, Dr. Arundhathi was admitted to the Neuro Centre Department of NIMHANS in Bengaluru. Six weeks later on, her rehabilitation schedule was continued at the St. Martha's Hospital and then onwards for about 3 months of neurorehabilitation at the Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru.

"She did regain about 25 percent strength in her left side of the body, though her right part continued to be non-functional. Most of the time, my mother had to be in a wheelchair. Even though she had recovered only partially, till June 1980, she continued to work as the Head of the Department of 'Women's Oncology Wing' at the Kidwai Memorial Hospital and later on worked at the Bowring Hospital, Bengaluru from June 1980 to May 1981, when she took voluntary retirement from Government service."

Dr. Arundhathi, along with her husband Dr. Murthy started their own nursing home (at Patalamma Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru) in October 1980 named "Anugraha Vittala Nursing Home" (A.V. Hospital). Even after getting partially disabled due to a cervical spinal injury, with her never-say-die attitude and optimism, Dr. Arundhathi started examining her patients with her functional left hand and she had also learnt to write prescriptions in her left hand itself.

Says Dr. Ramesh Makam: "Mother's students like Dr. Krishna Bai used to come to A.V. Hospital, to learn the complex foetal manoeuvring techniques like 'external cephalic version', which my mother used to demonstrate live on a pregnant woman, using her only functional left hand. Though my mother herself had to consume 10-12 types of analgesic tablets every day, to mitigate her bodily pain that was most of the time unbearable after the car accident and despite the continued physiotherapy sessions, she was always spirited enough to be beside a pregnant woman, assuring her, that the delivery would be smooth sailing."

The exceptionally meritorious lady doctor, who never knew anything about cricket, started watching the game frequently after the car accident.

During 1984-86, she was a visiting faculty and advisor to KIMS (Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bengaluru), till the institution got the MCI (Medical Council of India) recognition.

Before the accident, in the medical camps that used to be conducted in Bellary, during the late sixties, female patients always used to ask for "Arundhathiyamma." In 1974, Dr. Arundhathi was granted a fellowship by WHO (World Health Organisation), when she had to travel to UK, Singapore and Yugoslavia, which qualified her to teach MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) to junior doctors.

Says Dr. Ramesh Makam: "A few months after the accident, my mother used to get up every day around 3 am to do pranayama and meditate. Never once did she show any frustration, nor did she blame her fate. She was always optimistic. When I appeared for my surgery-DNB examination, she went all the way to Kukke Subramanya Swamy Temple and did 'urulu seve' praying for my success. At the All-India level, of the 326 candidates who had appeared for the examination, only 8 persons including me got through."

The lady doctor who passed away on Jan. 23 last year (2022), was 88 years of age. Arundhathi means **"washed from the rays of the sun",** the role-model doctor, indeed was a ray of hope, sunshine for the womenfolk till her very end.

For the gritty lady doctor believed in Jarod Kintz's words: "Faith-a device of the mind, fed by the soul that functions like crutches to a man in a wheelchair."

Dr. Arundhathi and her husband R.S.K. Murthy with their three sons (two sons are non-identical twins - Ravi and Ramesh). Picture right shows Dr. Arundhathi on wheel chair receiving an award in 2020.

Shivaratri Programmes at Sri Ganapathy Ashram

Sri Ganapathy Swamiji

Mysuru, Feb. 16- As part of Mahashivaratri, the following programmes will be held at Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram on Nanjangud Road from Feb. 17 to 19:

Feb. 17 - 9 am: Sri Chakra Puja; **10 am:** Girija Kalyanam; **6 pm:** Sri Venkatamakhin Memorial and Tyagaraja Swamy Aradhana - Mass singing of Tyagaraja Pancharatna compositions by many musicians.

Feb. 18 - 6 am: Maha Rudra Homa; **9 am:** Sri Chakra Puja; **10 am:** Maha Rudra Homa Purnahuti; **11 am to 2 pm:** Maha Rudra Abhishekam by devotees; **3 pm:** Puja to Moolikeshwara; **6.30 pm:** Rudra Abhishekam to Sri Sachchidanandeshwara Shivalinga by Pujya Sri Swamiji; **7 pm:** Sahasra Kalasha Abhisheka by devotees - Karnatak Vocal Concert by Vid. Palghat Ramprasad; **9 pm:** Karnatak Vocal Concert by Vidu. Madhavi Sarath; **11 pm:** Abhishekam to Sri Sachchidanandeshwara Shiva Linga by Chanting Rudra Prashna Veda Mantras for 11 times and different decorations

Feb. 19 - 12.10 am: Cultural programme; **3 am:** Shiva Bhajans and Divya Nama Sankeertana by Pujya Sri Swamiji; **6 am:** Maha Mangala Arati to Sri Sachchidanandeshwara Shiva Linga, Teertha & Prasada Distribution.

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Securing Royal Legacy

[Continued from Page - 29]

Vikram: You have taken over Lalitha Mahal helipad also, but it is the only helipad for the city. Will you respond positively if the Government offers you compensation to acquire it?

Pramoda Devi: I have allowed helicopter personnel to use the facilities. Anybody can land taking permission. The Government does not want to ask me for permission. It is their ego which stops them from asking me. Anyway, I don't blame them because they cannot take permission from a private person.

Vikram: Can they acquire the helipad?

Pramoda Devi: They can only do so after paying compensation. I will not allow and agree to it because I have put my father-in-law's name there. I am running it as Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar Helipad. Flights are landing. I have allowed a person to handle the landings over there. I think the Health Minister landed here recently after we got permission from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Vikram: Would you be open to it if the Government offers you compensation for Chamundi Hill because people from across the country visit the Goddess and take a look from the View Points? Or do you feel you will do a better job of protecting Chamundi Hill and its greenery?

Pramoda Devi: It is a very difficult question to answer. Protecting Chamundi Hill, I don't know what other things are involved, like Forest Department or the public. Everything and everybody is involved, but I will not do anything against the nature or interest of the public, hurt the religious interests of the public, or hurt the religious sentiments. Again, I must say I will not allow unscientific and indiscriminate development, which is happening now.

Renovation works under progress at Rajendra Vilas Palace.

> **I will work as long as I can. After that my son will have to look after things. Also, I want to leave something for the public and safeguard things for my future generation. People have given me so much affection, particularly after my husband passed away. That motivates me to move on because I have to consolidate so many things.**

Vikram: Do you feel overwhelmed with all the cases and work?

Pramoda Devi: I can take up more works because I love to work. But sometimes I don't do anything. I take time to introspect.

I will work as long as I can. After that my son will have to look after things. Also, I want to leave something for the public and safeguard things for my future generation. People have given me so much affection, particularly after my husband passed away. That motivates me to move on because I have to consolidate so many things.

Sometimes, the Government also misleads the public more so in the Survey No. 4 case. They say what are you going to do with 1,563 acres. I said let me find out how much is left. There was so much fraud in the deals and so much forgery that happened.

I am of the opinion that you can make buildings, start industries and manufacture things, but you cannot manufacture land; hence it is precious. That said, I don't mind horses or cattle in the land. They also need some place.

Vikram: In Survey Number 4, most people are expected to sell it off and make money. Since you love nature, would you be interested in turning a large part of your property into an urban forest to give back to Mysuru city?

Pramoda Devi: What do I need to sell the land for? Unless I am driven to sell it for my own survival. As I said, Goddess Chamundeshwari has been extremely kind to me.■

While Pramoda Devi Wadiyar pursues her husband's vision of a glorious Rajendra Vilas Palace come true and reclaims her family properties around Chamundi Hill, let us hope that she also manages to restore the hopes of Mysureans in keeping Chamundi Hill and the area around it green and turning it into an urban jungle instead of a concrete jungle. —Ed

Mysuru dancers at historic Hampi Utsav - 2023

Guru Vidu. Mithra Naveen of Nadavidyalaya & her disciples present Bharatanatyam

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Nadavidyalaya Academy of Music and Dance, Hebbal, Mysuru, presented Bharatanatyam recital during the grand inaugural of 'Hampi Utsav-2023' at the 'Yeduru Basava Vedike,' the 2nd biggest stage (among Gayatri Vedike, Viroopaksha Temple Vedike and Saasive Kaalu Ganapa Vedike) at Hampi opposite Viroopaksha Temple. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated the historical event.

Dance performers Guru Vidu. Mithra Naveen, her disciples Harshitha Amruth, Arpitha Nayak, Shreya Ramesh and B.M. Yashaswini enthralled the audience with the concept of Shiva and Shakthi.

The live orchestra included Vid. M.S. Naveen Andagar on vocal, Vidu. R. Meghana on natuvanga, Vid. Srinath Bhat on mridanga and Yeshas N. Kashyap on flute.

CFTRI Golden Jubilee Alumnus feted

CFTRI Alumni Association, during its annual meet held recently, felicitated its Golden Jubilee Alumnus T.R. Prabhu, M.Sc (Food Technology - 5th Batch, 1969-71), retired Scientist-G and former Head of Technology Transfer & Business Development Department, CFTRI. Others seen are (from left) *Arun Kumar, Secretary, CFTRI Alumni Association; Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, CFTRI; chief guest Dr. V. Prakash, former Director, CFTRI and Dr. P.S. Negi, President, CFTRI Alumni Association.*

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Calm with an iron palm

[Continued from Page - 20]

SOM: How do you strike a balance between professional and personal life?

Ramesh Banoth: You need to be sacrificing and compromising and it requires a great amount of dedication. I try not to mix my professional life with my personal life and never discuss my work with my family. When I was placed in Bengaluru early in my service, it was very difficult to balance both. I would start work early in the day and return home late and my kids would be asleep.

But I am fortunate to have a supportive wife. You need to accept the nature of your work and whenever I get time, I dedicate it to my family. But now with experience and having reached a level with a supportive team who share my responsibilities on the work front, I have managed to balance both in a better way.

SOM: You hold such a dynamic and stressful position and still appear to be calm and composed. How do you handle the stress that is a constant part of your job?

Ramesh Banoth: My family is a major stress-buster for me. My friends too play a role in unwinding. It's important to stay calm and composed at your workplace so that your subordinates and your team do not feel the pressure. By doing so, the efficiency and outcome will also be higher. Even at home, I stay calm but at times when the stress becomes obvious, my wife manages to keep the atmosphere stress-free. Whenever I get time, even if it is for a day, my family plans up a trip which is relaxing and helps de-stressing. Catching up on a movie with family is also a great stress-buster.

[Continued on Page - 44]

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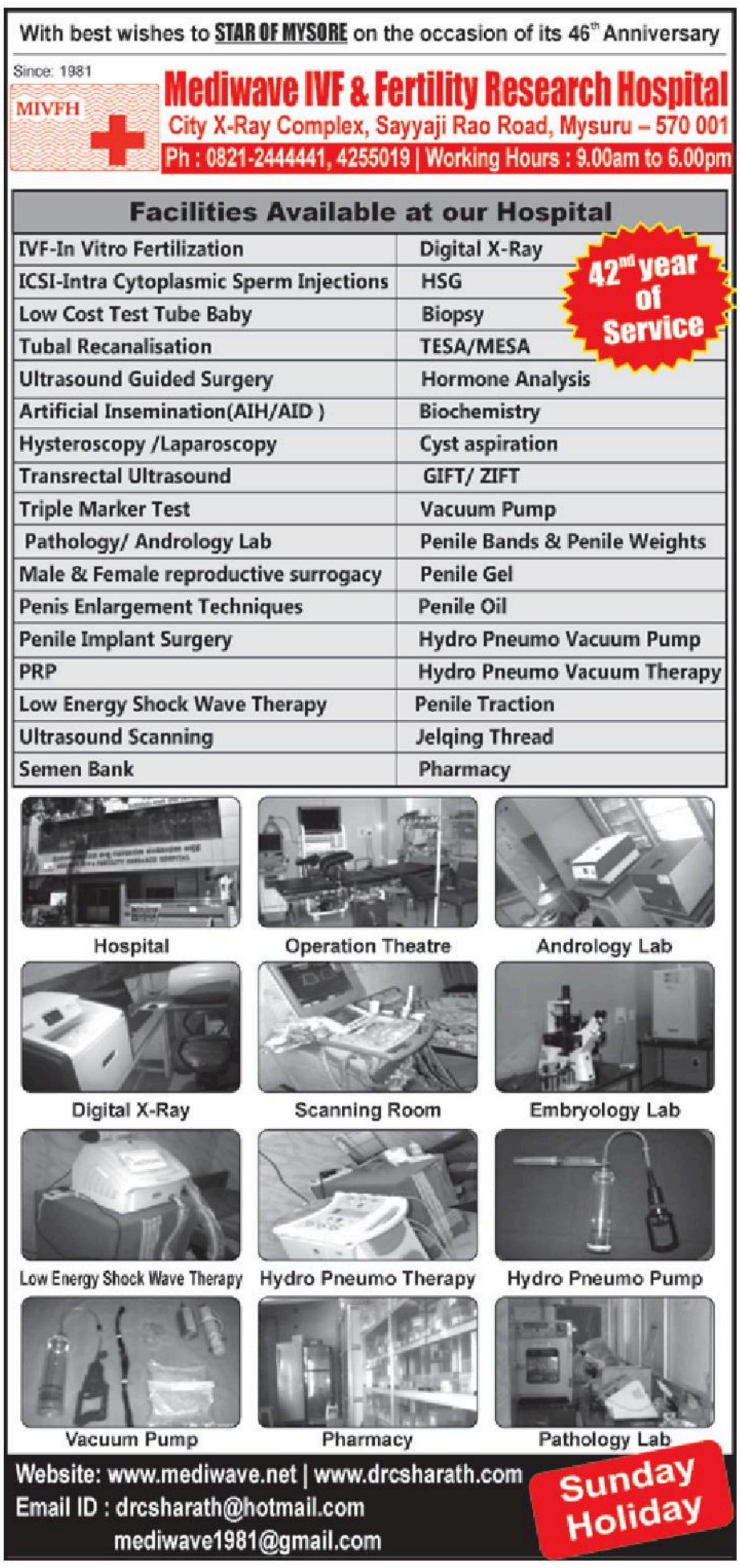

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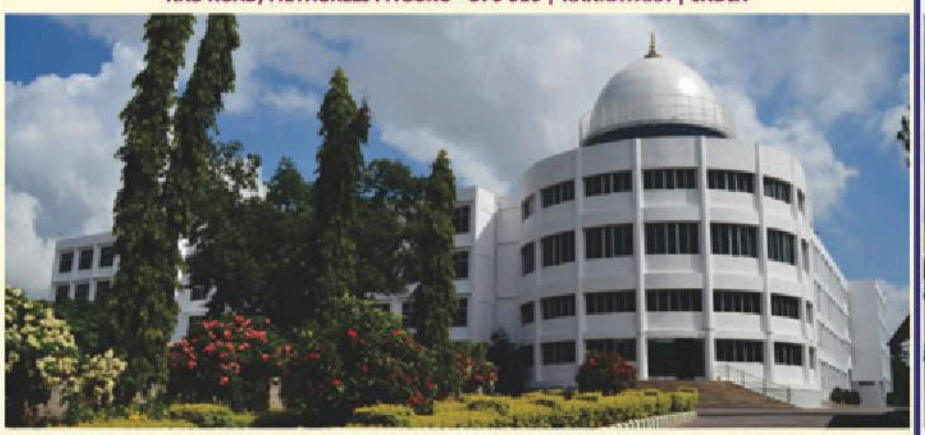

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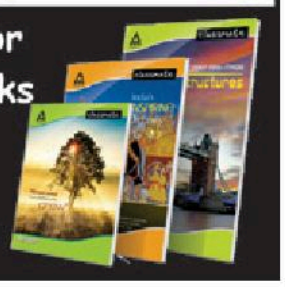

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Kantara

Deconstructing political, cultural motifs

The movie *Kantara* has broken all records and has a universal appeal. Though the movie saw a phenomenal run at the box office, social media is abuzz with discussion on topics like the performance of protagonist Rishab Shetty, the thought process of the movie that is termed by some as regressive and gave a new excuse to superstition.

Renowned author, speaker, illustrator, mythologist and *Star of Mysore* columnist Devdutt Pattanaik, known for his lucid take on mythological texts and figures, deconstructs the political and cultural motifs of *Kantara* in this interview.

Devdutt Pattanaik

By Devdutt Pattanaik

You tweeted that Kantara may not work in North India. Some people got upset with that. What was that about?

Devdutt: Local films do have global appeal if they connect to basic human emotions. *Kantara* did that successfully. However, the Hindi-speaking belt has a bad reputation. It sees everything south as 'Madrasi' and does not distinguish between Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra, Tamil Nadu or Telangana, let alone the subtle difference between North and South Karnataka.

Even now, to popularise the film in the Hindi belt, we see Panjurli, the local deity of South Karnataka, being equated with 'Varaha Rupam' of Vishnu Purana, thus diluting the local to appeal to the Hindi belt.

How is folk (desi) Hinduism different from classical (margi) Hinduism?

Devdutt: Classical Hinduism emerged in the Gangetic plains, just like Buddhism and Jainism, and spread across India, absorbing local beliefs and practices. In margi parampara, Brahmin and Sanskrit dominate; not in desi parampara. Koti Chennaya would be an epic of folk Hinduism, while Ramayana is an epic of classical Hinduism.

Panjurli of Bhoota Kola is folk Hinduism, rooted in the land, to the local community. He talks to people through the medium of the mask-wearing dancer-priest who goes into a trance. Varaha of Vishnu Purana is classical Hinduism, rooted in Brahmin lore, and traceable to Vedic rituals.

Giant images of Varaha became popular during the rule of Gupta-Vakatas and Chalukyas, 1,500 years ago, when the king was seen as the wild boar who saves the earth from the sea of enemies. In folk Hinduism, Gods eat what people eat — even fish, meat and alcohol. In classical Hinduism, purity is associated with vegetarian food. Kings hunt and eat wild boar. But so-called 'lower' castes are linked to domesticated pig which is considered impure. In the movie *Kantara*, the King who is unhappy and is not getting peace goes to a Brahmin guru and falls at his feet. But that does not work. The solution comes from a local deity who demands the forest be left alone.

This is a powerful way of positioning folk Hinduism over classical Hinduism. The deity is stating that the king will get peace of mind if he leaves the forest alone. We can say that Panjurli is the voice of the forest people, while Varaha is the king who rules the forests.

What do you know about Bhoota Kola?

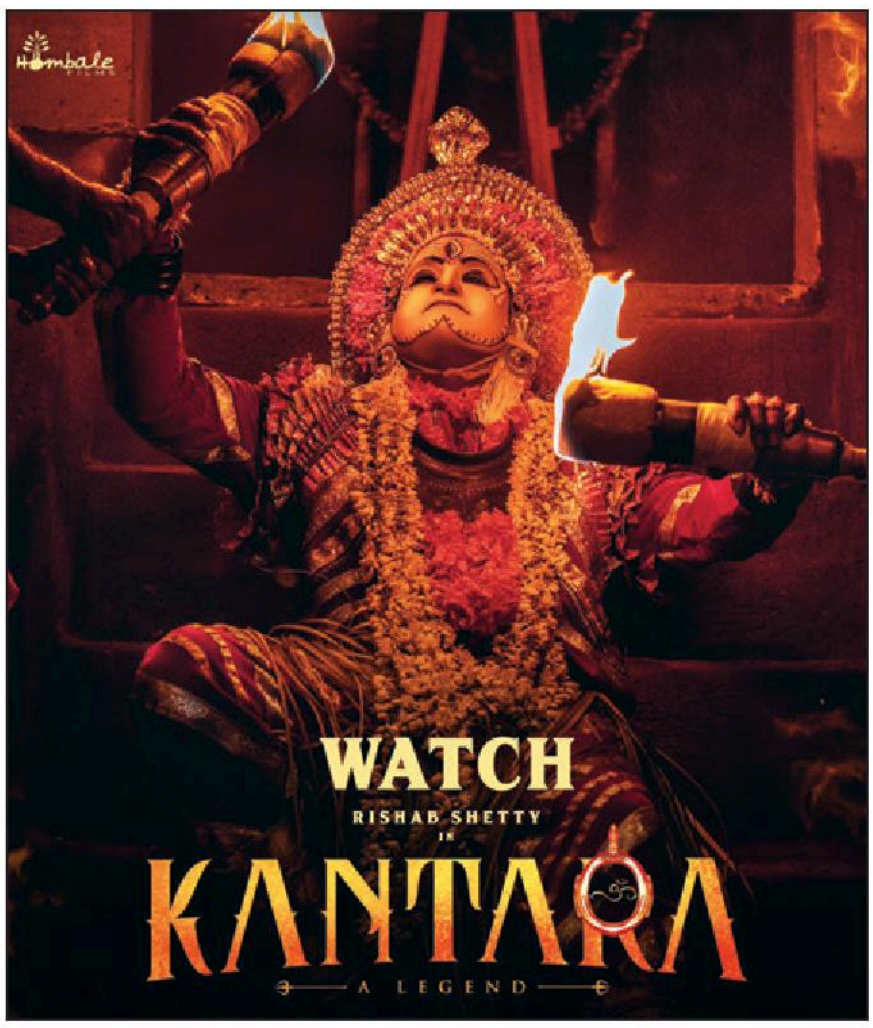
Devdutt: Bhoota Kola is a ritual that you find in the southern part of Karnataka. It is similar to Theyyam of North Kerala. The word Bhoota means spirit, usually of a great hero who died fighting wild animals or thieves or invaders. Theyyam or Dhaivam means deity.

In this ritual, a human being, usually belonging to what is called the lower strata of society, goes through certain rituals.

This includes fasting for many days and a vigil. After which he goes through an elaborate transformation with costumes and makeup. Music is played in the middle of the night and a lot of lamps and camphor are lit. It puts the man into a kind of trance, in which the individual identity disappears and the deity or spirit enters his body. The God talks through him to the general public. He becomes the deity at the time.

When the man becomes a deity, he becomes higher than the highest caste. Questions are asked to the deity which he answers. He gives views, opinions and judgements. So that is the ritual basically being presented in *Kantara*.

[Continued on Page - 42]



A poster of the movie Kantara.

The film KANTARA asks important political questions

How do tribal communities live without cutting trees or killing animals? This is how they have lived for thousands of years. Modern society created industries that destroy forests and pollute rivers excessively. Polluting without consideration. Modern society then created laws to protect forests. Why should tribals suffer?

Kantara

[Continued from Page - 41]

What makes** Kantara **so different from Bollywood Hindi films?

Devdutt: Unlike Bollywood, I find a hero who is not fair but dark, who is not perfect, he drinks and gets involved in fights. He is rowdy, aggressive, who doesn't treat women respectfully but somehow that is supposed to be cute and endearing. He also comes from the lower socio-economic strata. He likes to eat fish, meat and chicken.

These are the things that we don't find in Bollywood films, where people are fair, usually Punjabi, with names like Gupta, Kumar and Singh. What is also interesting in *Kantara* is how subtly the politics are played out. We find conflict between upper and lower castes, upper and lower classes, tribal and agricultural communities and the State, believers and non-believers, and Brahmanical and non-Brahmanical ideologies.

Do you think** Kantara **promotes Hindutva?

Devdutt: I think it is the other way around. It is election time and so Hindutva politicians are promoting *Kantara* by highlighting its supernatural elements and downplaying its political themes. *Kantara* presents ideas that would make a typical Hindutva politician very uncomfortable. I found at least seven or eight instances where caste matters were highlighted is shown like not entering the landlord's house, not eating food with him, not touching his hand etc.

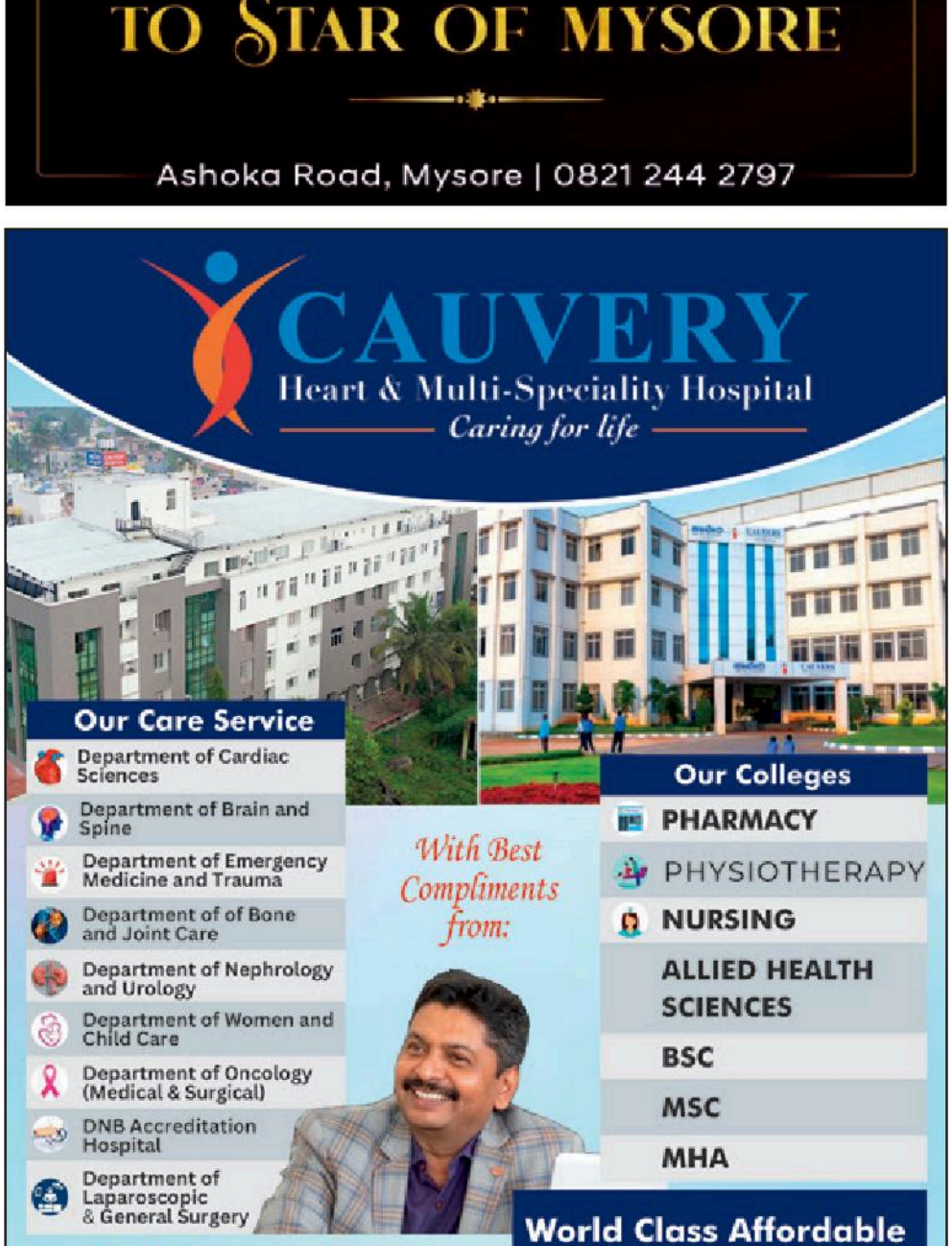
The hero is friends with a Muslim who bursts crackers during a local village festival. The hero drinks and eats meat. The hero has more faith in his God than in the State and the Government. The film shows how laws can be manipulated by politicians. Eventually, justice comes from Guliga, a wilder form of the milder Panjurli, not from judges or the Police.

Do you think** Kantara **promotes superstition?

Devdutt: If you are an atheist, then religion is superstition. But people who say these things don't realise that justice is also superstition and equality is also superstition. You know there is no justice in the world. You believe in justice like you believe in God; you go to court as if it is a temple where judges are priests. It is a performance just like the Bhoota Kola. Remember the question the landlord asked the Daiva during the Bhoota Kola: "Is it you speaking or is it the God speaking?" That's exactly what we, as people can ask the judge: "Is it you or the law speaking?"

Why do you think the filmmakers say in the title that** Kantara **is a legend, not a myth?

Devdutt: Myth means belief, especially about life and death, Gods and demons. Legend is a belief with political implications. This film is deeply political, not mythological. *Kantara* means a mystical magical forest. In Indian philosophy, everything begins with a forest. In Islamic and Christian ideas, everything begins with God. The separation of wild forests and domesticated fields is a very primal Indian idea. The wild spaces are linked to Shiva, Panjurli, wild boars, and domestic spaces to Vishnu, who is Varaha, protector, as well as the domesticated impure pig who cleans garbage and eats sewage■



Vijaya Vittala students excel

Pratham and Sathvik with guide teacher H.S. Veena Murthy.

Mysuru, Feb. 16 - The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in association with Department of General Education, Kerala and Vishveshwaraiah Industrial and Technological Museum, had organised 34th South India Science Fair and Competition at Trissur, Kerala recently.

Pratham S. Bharadwaj and Sathvik Hegde, Class 9 students of Vijaya Vittala Vidyashala, Mysuru, have secured 2nd place (in group category) out of 170 teams across 4 States and a Union Territory. They received appreciation from ISRO and were awarded with a special prize for innovative project on Space Science.

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Ramesh Banoth, IPS

Calm with an iron palm

[Continued from Page - 38]

SOM: Mysuru has been a peaceful city but yet law and order command constant attention. How have you braced up for the challenge?

Ramesh Banoth: Law and order situation in Mysuru is fairly better compared to other cities and even the crime rate is fortunately lesser. Proper enforcement of traffic management is something that I am aiming at — traffic discipline is the need of the hour and hence traffic monitoring cell is intensified. Along with the Police, the members of society must act responsibly and cultivate traffic sense. Measures to prevent crime are in place. My goal is also to improve the current law and order situation, take measures to combat criminal activities and continue to work for a fear-free society.

SOM: What message would you like to give youngsters with regard to the law and order?

Ramesh Banoth: Younger generation must take their academics and career seriously which eventually shapes their future. Do not get distracted or attracted to bad content that is easily available on the web and do not get addicted to the mobile revolution.

Addiction gives only temporary pleasure with a negative impact in the longer run. Say no to drugs and help us prevent crime, report to us if you come across such activities, and use social media in a productive way. We are just a click away. So, reach out to us through a tweet, text or a call so that we all can live in a safe environment.

SOM: How is Mysuru treating you?

Ramesh Banoth: It's been almost three months since I have taken charge and Mysuru has treated me really well. Mysureans are warm and friendly. People from all walks of life — be it youngsters, senior citizens, employed section, housewives or children for that matter — interact with me; they appreciate, support and also advise me. Mysuru now feels like home and there is a lot of love around ■

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Obituary

Hon. Lt. Ithichanda Chittiappa

Mysuru, Feb. 16 - Honorary Lt. (Indian Navy) Ithichanda Chittiappa (77), a resident of No. 2574, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 2nd Phase, passed away yesterday at a private hospital following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife Shanthi, daughter Sachitha, son-in-law Mandaneravanda Kuttappa and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be held today at Mukthidhama in Vijayanagar 4th Stage, according to family sources.

Lalitha Krishnamurthy

Lalitha Krishnamurthy (68), wife of late Dr. Belagaje Krishnamurthy and a resident of Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, passed away on Feb. 12 at her native place Puttur in Dakshina Kannada. She was ailing for a couple of months.

She leaves behind a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Puttur on Feb. 13, according to family sources.

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 16)

- **Sri Ramakrishna Jathra Mahotsava Samiti:** Inauguration of 'Vivekanandara Jnanavahini' publicity vehicle (as part of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Jayanti and Jatra Mahotsava to be held at Ramakrishnanagar on Feb. 26), prayer by Abhyudaya Mahila Sangha, J.P. Nagar, devotional songs by Arivina Mane Mahila Balaga, welcome address by K.S. Krishna, inaugural address by former MLC D. Madegowda, Corporators Sharadamma Eshwar and Shantamma Vadivelu, former Mayor B.L. Bhyrappa and M.B. Manjegowda, Puttaraja Gawai Stadium, J.P. Nagar, **9.30 am.**
- **Sahara Art and Crafts Shopping Festival-2022:** Handicraft and Handloom expo-cum-sale, Scouts and Guides Grounds, behind DC's Office, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Sri Raghavendraswamy Seva Samithi:** Discourse on 'Bhagavad Gita - Chapter 4 and 5' by Pt. Praveenachar Hunugunda, Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt, Jayalakshmipuram, **5 pm.**
- **Sri Kalanikethana School of Art, Mysuru:** Wood Print - Painting expo - 2023, School premises, CA-15, Vijayanagar II Stage, **11.30 am to 4.30 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram:** Swami Jnanayoganandaji speaks on 'Adhyatma Ramayana,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**

Swimming Pool inauguration

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The swimming pool at Nypunya School of Excellence, R.T. Nagar, will be inaugurated by City Police Commissioner Ramesh Banoth at 10.30 am today (Feb. 16).

Institution Chairman R. Raghu will preside, according to a press release.

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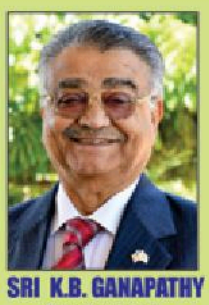
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Challenged by Fate

Dr. Niranjan Raj Urs carves a niche career on his own

By B. Sreekantswamy

Dr. B. Niranjan Raj Urs, flanked by his wife Gayatri, goes through Star of Mysore online with the help of a reading software.

Age is just a number that might have become a clichéd word with no dearth of stories heard from various quarters about how the elderly with youthful zest still roar to start, exploring unchartered territories. Here is the story of Dr. B. Niranjan Raj Urs enriching the value of the same.

Like his peers, the 62-year-old Urs is in his own comfort zone, with no worries about rushing to the office in time. Above all, what's uncommon is Urs lost total vision of his left eye at the age of 33 (he had lost the vision of his right eye at the age of 12), rendering him visually challenged, but that did not pin him down to curse the fate. It rather emboldened him to pursue his penchant for 'teaching and studying', with his wife Gayatri to support him.

After retiring as the Deputy Director of the Institute of Co-operative Management (ICM), Kannur, Kerala, on Sept. 30, 2020, Urs relocated his base to Mysuru in July 2021 and moved into Windsor Apartment (where once stood doyen of Sandalwood, film producer and actor late M.P. Shankar's bungalow named Panchavati). It has been two years since Urs made the 'Cultural Capital' Mysuru his home again, but his quest for knowledge transcends boundaries.

Urs was a 12-year-old when he lost the vision of his right eye after being hit by the sharp edge of the wood-crafted material while playing 'Gilli Dandu' (an outdoor game which was popular among young earlier). He was playing with his friends at Lakshmipuram, where once stood the bungalow of his maternal grandfather H. Mallaraja Urs who was in charge of 'Aane Karoti' (Elephant Stable) during the princely era. The incident left him with a 'single eye'.

His father A. Basavaraj Urs, who was a Police Inspector then, was posted at Thirthahalli in Shimogga (now Shivamogga) district. As a boy, Niranjan was sent to his grandparents' house in Mysuru, to be taken care of there, as he was afflicted by polio in his right leg when he was an 11-month-old toddler, and required constant care. He still endures the effect of Polio, with his right leg being abnormal. Moreover, he was the youngest among eight siblings and the love for him was obvious. Though Niranjan Urs lost the vision of his right eye, it did not deter him as he went on to study SSLC, second PUC, degree and post-graduation. While he studied up to class 2 at Jagadamba Shishuvihara near Siddappa Square, he studied class 3 to 7 at Christ The King Convent (CKC) which had a co-education facility then, 8 to 10 at Sarada Vilas Boys High School, PUC in Sarada Vilas College, Krishnamurthypuram and Degree at Maharaja's College.

> "Sixty-two-year-old Dr. Niranjan Raj Urs from Mysuru became visually challenged, losing vision in two different stages of his life. But that did not pin him down to curse fate, as he went on to mould himself as an authority in Co-operative Management in Kerala."

The academic mettle of Urs shone brighter when he excelled in MA in Co-operation from Mysore University with a Gold Medal for being the first ranker.

Under Physically Challenged quota, Urs landed a job as Inspector of Cooperative Societies, Office of Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, opposite Mysore Palace. After undergoing GDC training, he was transferred to Hassan and was later posted as Internal Auditor at Janata Bazaar near D. Banumaiah's College on New Sayyaji Rao Road.

Amid this, came a testing time for Urs, for whom UGC Fellowship to do Ph.D was on offer. But he was caught in a dilemma as obtaining a long leave for three to four years wasn't that easy. His application for the leave did not get consideration in time. Finally, Urs made up his mind and shot off a resignation letter much to the shock of his seniors. They even tried to dissuade him, but for Urs' steely resolve.

"After being relieved from duty, I joined for Ph.D research in October, 1986. Prof. Rudrappa was the Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University then and Prof. Sujana was the Registrar. Dr. Renukarya, a Professor in the Department of Co-operation, was assigned as my guide. I owe a lot of gratitude to Prof. Renukarya who gave me freedom. He said how the thesis should be restricted to 300 pages," recalls Urs without much ado.

"Amid this, in an unexpected development, the then Deputy Secretary of the Department of Co-operation, Karnataka, summoned me to the Office one day and advised me to write to the Government withdrawing my resignation and requesting for study leave. The Officer even dictated the content of the letter and then saw to it that the Government sanctioned extraordinary leave, first for two years and then extended it by one year and six months (from October 1986 to April 1990). This came in handy in completing the Ph.D," says Urs.

Later, when Urs returned to duty, he was posted to Puttur as Inspector of Cooperative Societies where he worked between 1990 and 92. However, he put in his papers, as he got a Central Government job with the State Government's service period added to his new job.

On Oct. 8, 1992, Urs was posted as a lecturer at the ICM, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. It was one among 20 such institutes in the country and Urs' passion for teaching and learning got an edge here. **However, fate had something else in store for him, as he started experiencing the loss of vision gradually in his left eye with too much pressure on the only eye (as he had lost the vision of his right eye as a child). Urs had a love to pore over books, which took a toll on his left eye.** The ophthalmologist at a hospital diagnosed it to be a case of cataract, suggesting that the operation will be the cure. **However, those in the know-how suggested trying Ayurveda.**

Not to disappoint, Urs went to Dr. Shanthakumari of Government Ayurveda Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. It was Shanthakumari who gave her true opinion, albeit rather bitter, about no chance of regaining vision, but for reducing the rate of degeneration. The condition is called RP — Retinal Pigmentation.

"I had a 10-month-old son then," recalls Urs, mostly hinting at what may have gone through in his mind at that time (at the age of 33 in 1994, when he lost the total vision of his left eye too). **"Certain things in life have no explanation. It happened, so happened," says Urs meaning how we should move on in life.**

But Urs calls him also lucky at times, as he humbly takes the name of his colleague Jijimol George, the Librarian at the Institute, who between 1994 and 2003 helped him glean knowledge from various books.

[Continued on Page - 54]

Ardent *SOM* reader...

Dr. Niranjan Raj Urs still keeps abreast of current affairs as he pores over the newspapers without a miss. He has been a reader of *Star of Mysore* since his stint in Kerala, the practice he developed to keep his bond with his hometown Mysuru intact.

It continues still, as Urs says: "I have been a regular reader of K.B. Ganapathy's column *Abracadabra*, *In Black & White* by Vikram Muthanna and *Over a Cup of Evening Tea* by Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem.

Prof. Muzaffar Assadi is new Acting VC of Mysore Varsity

Prof. Muzaffar H. Assadi

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (SSM&BS)- Prof. Muzaffar H. Assadi has been appointed as the new Acting Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore.

A notification issued by the Office of Under Secretary to Governor, signed by Governor of Karnataka and Chancellor of Universities, Thaawarchand Gehlot, dated Feb. 15, states, "Prof. Muzaffar H. Assadi, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Department of Studies in Political Science, to act as Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, Mysuru with effect from the afternoon of Feb.17, 2023 (Since Feb.18 and Feb.19 are general holidays) till June 30, 2023 (the date when Assadi's Deanship ends) or until a regular Vice-Chancellor is appointed or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

It may be mentioned that as the tenure of the previous UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar ended on the afternoon of Nov. 15, 2022, Prof. H. Rajashekar, the senior-most Dean of Faculty of Commerce, Department of Studies in Commerce, was appointed as Acting VC with effect from the afternoon of Nov. 15, 2022 till Feb.19, 2023.

EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 17)

- **Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Yadavagiri:** 87th Trimurti Shiva Jayanti Mahotsava, 'Spatika Linga Punya Darshana' and 'Rajayoga Adhyatmika Chitra Pradarshana,' Rajayogini BK Lakshmiji graces the occasion, Sri Vangipura Mutt Seer Sri Ilai Alwar Swamiji inaugurates, MLA L. Nagendra, former MLA Vasu and MUDA Chairman Yashaswi Somashekar chief guests, Gyan Prakash Bhavan, 2nd Main Road, Yadavagiri, **8.30 am.**
- **JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru:** Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan inaugurates, Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji graces the occasion, Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation and Minor Irrigation J.C. Madhuswamy presides, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha and Narasimharaja (NR) MLA Tanveer Sait guests of honour, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER) Pro-Chancellor Dr. B. Suresh and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Surinder Singh will be present, felicitation to former Principals, retired teaching and non-teaching staff of JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, for their significant contributions towards the growth and development of the College, Sri Rajendra Auditorium, JSS AHER premises, M.G. Road **4 pm.**

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46
PRATAP SIMHA
The 46-year-old Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha MP Pratap Simha first won in 2014 and in 2019 for the second time. A former President of State BJP Yuva Morcha, he began his career as a journalist writing columns and articles in newspapers. He was asked to contest by the BJP from Mysuru-Kodagu Constituency in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, following which he resigned his job as a journalist with a Kannada daily in April 2014. Simha contested LS polls and won, when he said that he went on to become a Parliamentarian from a Journalist in just 33 days. He was appointed as a Member of Press Council of India in 2015. As an MP for the past 9 years, he has brought many projects to Mysuru.
S.A. RAMDAS
A senior BJP leader of the city and sitting MLA from K.R. Constituency, S.A. Ramdas was first elected on a BJP ticket as K.R. MLA in 1994. He has represented the Constituency for four terms (1994, 1999, 2008 & 2018). He was inducted as member of B.S. Yediyurappa Cabinet in 2010 as Minister for Medical Education. He continued to hold the same portfolio in the subsequent D.V. Sadananda Gowda and Jagadish Shettar Cabinets till 2013, during which he also served ably as Mysuru District-incharge Minister. Ramdas also heads a voluntary organisation called 'Aasare Foundation', which is into social service in Mysuru, conducting different activities and carrying out various social welfare programmes.
YASHASWI S. SOMASHEKAR
A senior BJP leader and current Chairman of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Yashaswi S. Somashekar has served the party in various capacities for over three decades. Founder and CEO of Hotel Sepoy Grande on M.G. Road, he has been serving the party and rendering service to the public. Considering his contribution to the party, the BJP top brass picked him as Chairman of Mysuru Urban Development Authority which he took charge on Dec. 21, 2022. As MUDA Chairman, he has chalked out many plans for the overall development of Mysuru.
L. NAGENDRA
BJP leader and current MLA from Chamaraja Assembly Constituency, L. Nagendra who first unsuccessfully contested from Chamaraja in 2013, came back strongly to win in the 2018 Assembly polls. Nagendra, who began his political career as a MCC Corporator, later was appointed as MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority) Chairman, when the BJP considering his track record and service as the head of the Authority, chose him to contest from Chamaraja Assembly segment in 2013, which he however lost in a closely fought triangular contest. But he came back to win by a thumping majority in the 2018 Assembly polls. As a Corporator and MUDA Chairman earlier and now as Chamaraja MLA, Nagendra has served the people to the best of his capability.
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

By Girija Madhavan

MYSORE MEMORIES...

Elusive Fragrance From Past

Memories are like faded flower petals in a 'Pot-pourri' jar; once vibrant blooms, their colour now dimmed, their life over. Yet, when the jar is opened, a faint fragrance still wafts out. Old memories too come to fleeting life again when revived. Apart from my personal recollections of early childhood, I also retain part of a collective family memory stemming from 'story-telling time', when elders retold favourite tales. The Khedda story is one such.

Human interaction with elephants goes back to the misty past. They were captured and tamed, the methods used are said to have been chronicled by Megasthenes in circa 200 BCE; popular ways being of trapping them in concealed pits or herding them into a stockade, the Khedda method. They were prized possessions of royalty and temples too. Single elephants also were captured and tamed.

The royal family of Mysore has traditionally maintained a stable of elephants; the 'Pattada Aane' [flag elephant], 'Ambari Aane' [the one carrying the howdah] and 'Nishane Aane'. As a small girl, I have seen Maharaja Jayachamaraja Wadiyar in the howdah of the caparisoned, decorated Ambari Aane in the

Wild elephants captured in the enclosure or khedda.

Dasara procession. In traditional regalia, he raised his folded hands, flashing with rings, to acknowledge the salutations of the crowds. Elephants are still stars of the Dasara procession, loved by spectators.

Forests in Karnataka long ago were full of wildlife, including herds of elephants. The Khedda was introduced by a British Officer called G.P. Sanderson at Kardihalli in Kakanakote forest along the Kabini river bank, in 1873-74. Kheddas were later held as spectacles for important visitors to Karnataka.

Though he had not attended a Khedda himself, my father, M. Venkatesh had heard accounts of it from Ursu colleagues. It was a massive operation, sometimes composed of a thousand men; 'beaters' banging drums, flares and trained elephants [Kumkis] herding the wild ones. A herd, selected in the forest, was driven into a secure stockade from which there was no escape. They were held there in captivity for a while, then tamed elephants or Kumkis would enter the stockade while the mahouts and helpers would rope and isolate the animals meant to be tamed.

Father was a little wistful that he had not witnessed an event of this magnitude. But Mukta, my mother, was aghast at the thought of the dust, the trumpeting of the terrified animals, the separation of calves from their mothers, and finally the cruel training to break their mighty spirit. In 1972, Kheddas were legally banned under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Royal families and the British rulers organised hunts or 'Shikar'. Tigers, panthers, bisons, bears and other species fell to the hunters guns. A need arose to preserve these trophies. The Van Ingen family of Mysore were expert taxidermists. Dutch traders, they were said to have migrated to the Deccan in the 17th century. Eugene Melville van Ingen started a taxidermy business in Mysore which was called Van Ingen & Van Ingens or Van Ingen of Mysore [1900-1999]. Their artistic creations were internationally sought-after by collectors and museums. The ban on the hunting of endangered species and the Wildlife Protection Act affected the taxidermy business.

Film Directors, Robert J. Flaherty and Zoltan Korda, made the film 'Elephant Boy' in Mysore [1937] launching young 'Sabu' into Hollywood stardom. Botha van Ingen, one of the three van Ingen brothers, helped Robert Flaherty with advice on forest and animal lore for this film.

Flaherty's documentary on Eskimos [now called the Inuit people] titled 'Nanook of the North' in 1922 and 'Moana' in 1926 about Samoa in the South Pacific were classics. His children who accompanied their parents assimilated these diverse cultures. One of his daughters, Barbara, joined her parents in India in 1934 and met Botha van Ingen. They married, had a family of three children and built a house called 'The Land' in Mysore.

My mother Mukta, because of the common bond of painting, art and literature, was a friend of Barbara van Ingen, who often visited Mukta in her Yadavagiri home. Barbara herself was a gifted artist whose sketch of her father playing the violin was very vivid. In 1976, at the age of sixty, she returned to the US to live in Brattleboro. She corresponded with Mukta who fondly saved her letters and cards. Mukta passed away in 2003 at the age of over 101 years; Barbara at the age of 89, in Brattleboro in the US a couple of years later.

I have returned to live in Mysuru in my old age; to a city and ethos somewhat changed from my birthplace of 85 years ago. Yet it is comfortingly familiar, the old city melding into new times, but with a sense of continuity... like a loved personality changing over the years but always with beauty and grace.

Talented child artiste from Namma Mysuru

Vansh P. Keserker

A scene from web series 'Half Pants Full Pants.'

Vansh in an advertisement.

Mysuru boy **Vansh P. Keserker,** the face of many advertisements, recently ventured into the 'OTT' platform with web series 'Half Pants Full Pants.' A class 7 student of Purna Chetana Public School in city, this lad started his acting career at the age of 4 in the Kannada film industry.

Vansh has been featured in advertisements like Amul, Meesho, Aalaya Cotton etc.

'Half Pants Full Pants,' adapted from Anand Suspi's autobiographical novel of the same name, transports us back to the good old days when life was much simpler without the Internet and phones. An Amazon Prime Original series, this has been written by Mani Prasad, Anand Suspi, Gaurav Mishra and directed by V.K. Prakash.

The plot revolves around Anand aka Dabba (Ashwanth Ashok Kumar), a boy with big dreams and adventures. Vansh Keserker plays the role of Raghu aka Giddi who acts as a good support to him. The series also stars renowned actors Ashish Vidyarthi, Sonali Kulkarni and other child artistes.

Vansh is the son of Indu Keserker, Teacher at Purna Chetana Public School, Mysuru and Prashant Keserker, Creative Designer at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (PwC), Bengaluru, residents of Manasinagar, Mysuru.

Vansh with his parents Indu Keserker and Prashant Keserker and brother Anirudh. *Pic. right:* ***Vansh with team 'Half Pants Full Pants.'***

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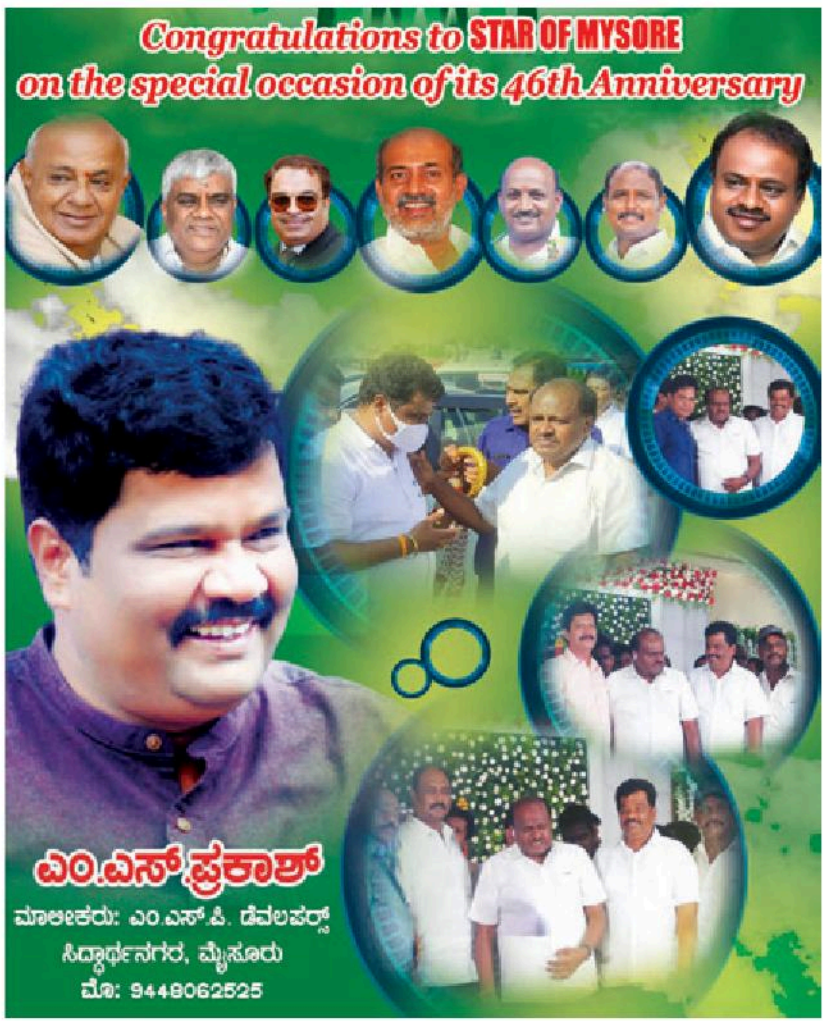

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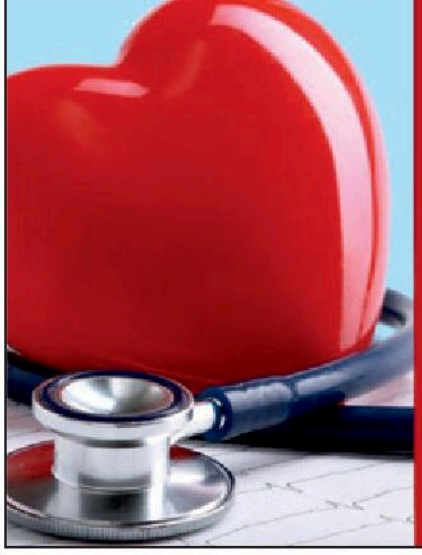

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All in the Game

All of 37, Mayur Subbaiah, once a part of India's medal-winning hockey team, now takes pride in working for the South Western Railways as Deputy Chief Inspector. He was a vital cog in Indian hockey as a drag specialist and an expert in penalty corner conversion.

By B.C. Thimmaiah

Mayur might not have been born under a lucky star as the most sought-after Indian hockey player, but he has made his mark in the Indian Hockey arena and his love for the game and sense of duty keeps him going. He continues his passion for the game and does not miss a chance to wield the hockey stick and wants to do something worthwhile for his home district of Kodagu, the cradle of hockey.

Born to Bollajira Jaya Subbaiah and Rathi Subbaiah at Balaji village in South Kodagu on 18.7.1986, Mayur did his primary at Lions School, Gonikoppal from 1990 to 1995 and later went to Bangalore to join Junior Sports Authority of India (SAI) Training Centre in 1996 for hockey selection and he was the youngest and talented player.

He did his schooling at St. Joseph's Indian High School from Seventh to Tenth Standard and played for several School, District, State and National-level School games. His position in the game was right half and back. Coach Manohar Katige recognised Mayur's talent and game skills and motivated him. "I hold him in great respect and fondly recall the memories of Manohar Sir who groomed me," Mayur reveals.

Making the mark very young

"I used to dream of playing for the Karnataka Team and later on Indian Team. I was the youngest player in the school team and many seniors and my coach encouraged me and I had a chance to play for the senior SAI Team in my ninth standard itself. I worked hard and got selected for senior SAI team in 2000 and was a regular player for that team," he says.

"I saw many senior players on the SAI campus and my inspiration was Anjaparavanda B. Subbaiah, the former Indian hockey goalkeeper and coach. His passion, confidence and positive attitude further motivated me and I had a deep desire of wearing the Indian jersey. At SAI, I saw many Indian top players play like Dhanraj Pillai, Ashish Ballal, Sabu Varkey, Prabhjot Singh and Baljit Singh in action and that was inspirational," he recalls.

Mayur has played for several Sub-Junior Karnataka, Junior Karnataka and Senior Karnataka hockey teams and he was a specialist in drag-flick. He has played multiple nationals in all categories Under-16, Under-19 and Senior National. He was a part of the Sub-Junior India team in Singapore in 1999 and emerged winners, played for Junior Indian Hockey Team Under-21 match in Dhaka in 2004 and was in the World Cup Under-21 in Chennai.

Lost out due to political lobbying

Though he had a vast experience in playing, Mayur could not play much for India due to political lobbying. "I was best in the ground and was the best in drag-flick and dribbling and no one could match my skills. Still, the selectors preferred some other players over me and this demotivated me. But I managed to make my mark in Indian hockey, despite the politics played by the selectors to include their family members in the national team. If I had support then at my peak, I would have been an ex-Olympian now," Mayur says with a wry smile.

Mayur was upgraded to the senior SAI camp at the young age of 17. "Len Aiyappa taught me the drag-flick (penalty corner conversion). It involves a player crouching down low next to the ball. It is then picked up by the shaft of the hockey stick and pushed along the ground, while the stick acts like a sling. This helps accelerate the ball. These penalty corners are always taken by a specialist player, known as the drag-flicker. I am proud to say that drag-flick always falls upon the shoulders of someone who is proficient," Mayur says with confidence.

Camp with commandos

A memorable experience was his time in the National Security Guard (NSG) 45-day Army fitness camp in Manesar with senior Indian hockey team probables where Mayur had the opportunity to play with Dhanraj Pillay, Jugraj, Dilip Tirkey, Ignace Tirkey and many more senior players. This was to make the players mentally tough and increase their endurance levels. "I got an A-1 certificate at the camp," he adds.

"I used to dream of playing for the Karnataka Team and later on Indian Team. I had a chance to play for the senior SAI Team in my ninth standard itself."

"Being at Senior SAI, I was even playing for the Air India team, Bombay. Bombay was part of the Air India team and I got a job at South Central Railway (Secunderabad) when I was just 18 years and two months. I got through in talent quota and was directly appointed by the Railway Board, New Delhi in 2005 and was the youngest sportsperson of Railway Sports Promotion Board," he recalls.

Contribution in the Railways teams

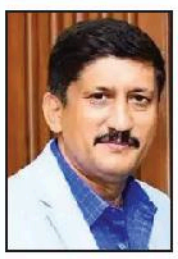
As the youngest employee in the Railways, playing for South Central Railway, he gained more experience and laurels and entered the Indian Railways Hockey Teams. Mayur played in All-India tournaments and Senior National Hockey tournaments to win several medals.

"I got the Best Player of the Year Award from the Railway Board. In 2007, I got a call from the Indian Hockey Federation for the Indian National Camp for Olympic Qualifiers Camp and Asia Cup. I got selected for the Asia Cup held in Chennai in 2007 and continued my hockey journey in the Indian Railways and South Central Railway. After playing many All-India tournaments and winning several medals, I got transferred from South Central Railway to South Western Railways," he says.

"The South Western Railways is the nearest station to my native Kodagu. From 2012 to 2019, I played for this Division and had a successful hockey career for over 22 years. I am now concentrating on my duty as Deputy Chief Inspector. I have received many awards like the DRM Award, PCCM Award and even the GM Award. The motivation provided by the Railway administration helps me keep my dreams alive and every day is a learning experience. Whatever I am today is because of the Indian Railways," he says.

On future plans, Mayur wants to give back to society. "I want to extend a helping hand to my village, my town, my land and my community which have brought me so much name and fame," he signs off ■

Words of praise from the mentor



A.B. Subbaiah

"We have had drag-flickers in the team but they are not well-versed in other areas, but Mayur Subbaiah is exceptional. He has the uncanny ability to play in all areas, under any circumstance. If he is provided with a chance in the senior team, he will definitely make a world of difference. I coached Mayur when he was representing SAI and he does not lack in any area because he has got strong basics coming from SAI. His dedication to learning more in the game is tremendous. He has got the passion, is consistent, aggressive, hard-working and has the game."

[Two-time Olympian and former Indian Goalkeeper Anjaparavanda B. Subbaiah said this about Mayur Subbaiah to a sports magazine]

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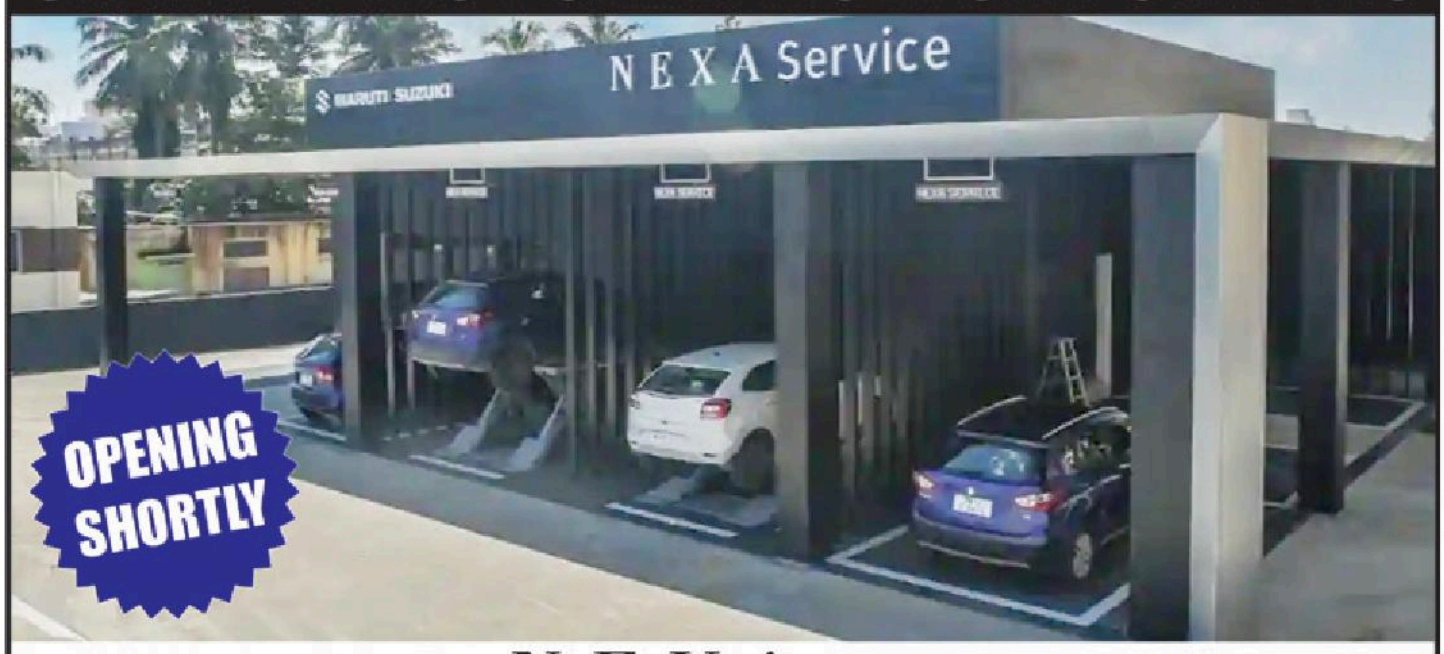

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Singapore Experience

World's tallest indoor waterfall at Jewel Changi Airport, Singapore.

By N.K.A. Ballal,
Retd. Senior Vice-President, ITDC

Why do I call our visit to Singapore an experience? After four visits, I have no new tourist attractions to see except the 'Jewel,' a forest and waterfall re-created right in the middle of the Terminal 3 International Airport, a must-see place. The best months to visit Singapore are between November and February as this is considered to be monsoon months.

The secret of the fitness of an average Singaporean is the quality of water supplied to homes. Imagine one can drink from the tap anywhere — the water is minus all impurities. There are no scale formations on any bathroom and kitchen fittings.

I changed some bathroom fittings in Mysuru just one year back and they now look old because of the scale formations. In Singapore, even after 6 years, bathrooms look sparkling and new. One hardly falls sick there. How do they dispose of their waste?

In Mysuru, there is such a hue and cry about thin plastic bags but in Singapore, they are used in every single outlet. How do they get rid of them? I have been given to understand that they transport all their waste to an island and dispose of it at an underground facility.

Our flat was bang opposite the Singapore River. All along the banks, they have built gardens and walkways for people to walk or cycle and there are plenty of pubs, restaurants and discos. One can access the restaurants on river cruises. I also noticed that all the rainwater flows into the river. Every morning five boats clean the river of all waste and even dredging is done to remove excess soil.

Over 35 percent of Singapore is gardens and forests. They have created a huge dense forest right in the middle of the city with a reservoir which supplies 20 percent of the drinking water to the city. The rest is supplied from Malaysia.

The Singapore Government claims that their drinking water is safer than any mineral water. One hardly finds any mineral water in any supermarket.

Health is wealth. Every Singaporean believes that. I used to go for a walk in the mornings and would find at least 300 people either walking or cycling.

'Dogs life' we often comment in a derogatory manner but in Singapore, dogs are literally kings. Humans go behind dogs to collect their poop and spray water if the dog has peed on a vehicle or a lamp post. The sheer variety of breeds I saw was mind-boggling. In my 3-month stay, I did not see a single street dog.

One of the oldest localities of Singapore is China Town where one can still see some heritage buildings. On the main streets there are cafes lined up where one can see senior citizens sitting with a glass of beer. I did not see a single dilapidated heritage building.

Not for nothing is the tag of the 'costliest city in the world' given to Singapore. If one has to survive everyone — from 20 to 80 years — has to work. It is common to see a 70-year-old taxi driver or a waiter. Medical costs are prohibitive, an RT-PCR test (mandatory for Indian travellers) costs 75 dollars. Every locality has a clinic and the head doctor would only see a patient if he is referred by the local doctor.

I visited a Ganapati temple in China Town called 'Lion Ganapati.' They have a dress code and there is a heavy rush on weekends. I was pleasantly surprised to see many Chinese nationals praying. Ganesh has become truly international.

We had visited an Indian locality called 'Little India' on the eve of Pongal. The Serangoon Road was brightly lit up but I felt that our Devaraj Urs Road lighting on the eve of Dasara was far better.

On return by Singapore International, was pleasantly surprised when they served a piping hot idly and sambar for breakfast. The only disappointment was that the plane landed in the old airport terminal of the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

I was hoping to see the hyped-up Terminal-2 but was told that it was closed for work immediately after the opening by the Prime Minister. The same fate is going to be for the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway. Due to election politics, the road would be hastily opened and again closed for repairs and pending works. The amount of work pending cannot be completed in two months in my opinion. Hope I am proved wrong.

One shortcoming I did notice while travelling from Bengaluru to Mysuru on the new Expressway — there are no restaurants or washroom facilities. A minimum of two food court space should have been provided on either side of the road and displaced eateries and toy-makers of Channapatna could have been placed there along with pay-and-use restrooms.

Everyone travelling on the Highway does not zip through. Senior citizens and children require bathroom facilities. Every time I visit Singapore, I come back revitalised but Mysuru is Mysuru and I missed it.

ananthballal@gmail.com

Mega Udyoga Mela on Feb. 21

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (SSM)- The Office of Assistant Director of District Employment Exchange, in association with District Skill Development Office, Mysuru, has organised a day-long mega Udyoga Mela (Job Fair) at Doddakere Maidan in city on Feb. 21 from 9 am.

About 150 companies will recruit candidates. Job aspirants who have passed or failed in SSLC, pass in PUC, JOC, ITI Diploma, BE and any degrees are eligible. Interested male and female candidates may attend the Mela carrying copies of necessary documents along with their passport size photos. For details, call Ph: 0821-2489972.

State-level Cultural Meet in city

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Vishwa Chetana Balaga, T. Narasipur and District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru, have organised the 12th State-Level Cultural Competitions and prize distribution ceremony on Feb. 18 on the occasion of Mahashivaratri.

The competitions will begin from 9.30 am at the Parishat premises in Vijayanagar 1st Stage here.

Contests will be held in four categories — 6 to 10 years; 10 to 16 years, 16 to 40 years and for those aged above 40 years.

The organisers have asked the participants to observe COVID appropriate norms like wearing masks and maintaining social distance at the venue.

For details, contact Mob: 95138-07425.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large is hereby notified that, my client/s has desirous to purchase the under mentioned property from its owner **Smt. SUSHMA DHRUVA,** daughter of Late B. Dakshayani and wife of Sri. Dhruva Jyothi Urs M.N., If, any person/(s), including Bank, Financial Institution, Private Financier and all Statutory Authorities, claiming any right, interest, objections or charges on the under mentioned Schedule Property or any part thereof, is/are hereby required to contact me at my Office **SLD Law Firm, No. 1458/A, N.S. Road, Near Sapna Book House, Mysuru,** with documentary evidences, within **07 (Seven) days** from the date of this publication, as otherwise the said transaction will be completed without any references or regards to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived for all intents and purposes.

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ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 545/2021

ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿದಾರರು: ತಹೆರುನ್ನೀಸ ಬೇಗಂ ಕೋಂ ಮಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಖಲೀಂ ಸಾಹೇಬ್ ಬನ್ನೂರು ಟೌನ್, ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು. ವಿರುದ್ಧ

ಎದುರುದಾರರು: 1. ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ರವರು, ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾ., 2. ಸಿ.ವಿ.ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ರಾಜನ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸಿ.ವಿ ಜಾನಕವಲ್ಲಿ, 3. ಸಿ.ವಿ.ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸಿ.ವಿ ಜಾನಕವಲ್ಲಿ 2 ಮತ್ತು 3 ರವರ ವಾಸ: ರಾಮಾನುಜ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಫೋರ್ಟ್ ಮೊಹಲ್ಲಾ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮೇಲ್ಮನವಿದಾರರಾದ ನಾನು ಘನ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ

1 ರಿಂದ 3ನೇ ಎದುರುದಾರರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ರಂಗನಾಥಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ.ನಂ. 27ರ ವೈಕಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 38 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದಪಣಿ ಕಾಲಂ 9 ಮತ್ತು 10ರಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾತಾ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 120 ಮತ್ತು ಒಟ್ಟುಗೂಡಿಸು ಎಂದು ನಮೂದಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿಸಿ ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕನವಿಯನ್ನು ಘನ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮುಂದೆ ತರಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, 2 ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ಎದುರುದಾರರ ಪಾಜರಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂಚೆ ತಲೋಮೋಲೆ ಮೂಲಕ ನೋಟಿಸನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಆದರೆ 2 ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ಎದುರುದಾರರು ಏಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹಿಂಬರಹ ಬರದೂ ಅಂಚೆ ತಲೋಮೋಲೆಯನ್ನು ಆಂಚೆಯವರು ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

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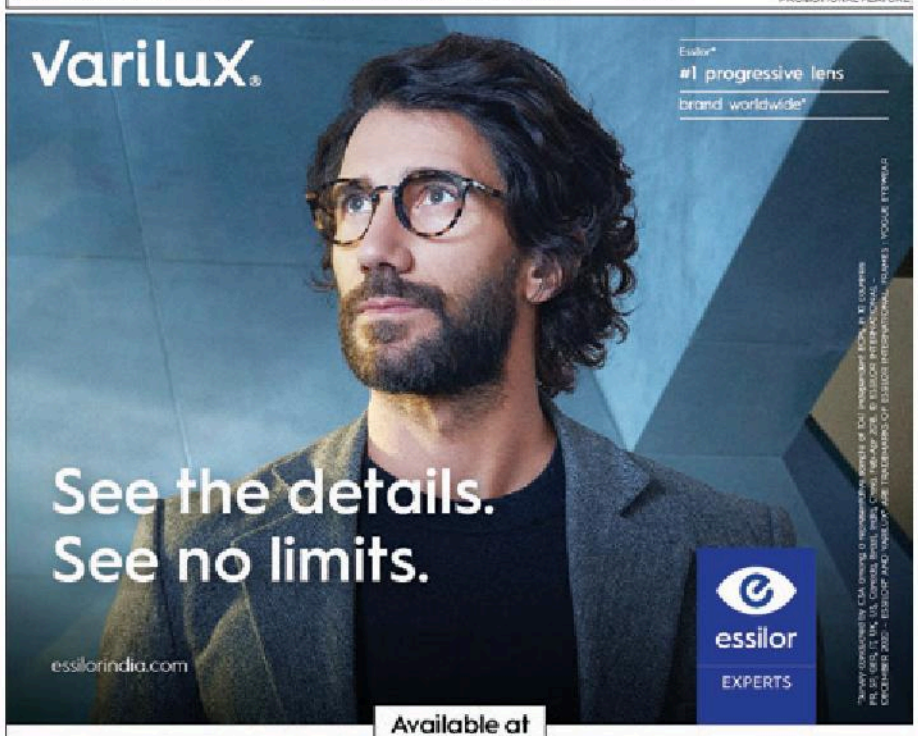

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Dr. Urs carves a niche career on his own

[Continued from Page - 46]

"Jijimol George helped me so much as she knew my area of interest and was keeping the books ready, with two to three students reading them for me," said Urs who still has every minute details of his life on his fingertips, which he recalls with accuracy, leaving listeners spellbound.

What's intriguing further is, amid all these conditions, Urs had started learning the smattering of Malayalam language and was teaching the trainees, irrespective of short and long-term trainees, in a mix of English and Malayalam languages. One fine day, he had perfected the art of speaking in Malayalam, which he still speaks well.

Says Urs: "Language is a key to understand culture of any land. So, I learnt Malayalam and more the languages we learn, it is good."

After losing sight, Dr. Urs had to take the help of readers for fulfilling his penchant for knowledge. He used to pay these readers and depended on them a lot. It was sometime in 2003 that he came in contact with R. Sudheer, an Instrumentation Engineer, who was also suffering from RP, but from the age of 26.

"He introduced me to a software that made reading books easy, but it came at a price. From Sudheer, I came in contact of one Balaraman, a visually challenged by birth, who trained me to read on the screen using the software. This greatly expanded my vista of reading," he reveals.

In November 2010, Urs was transferred as Vice-Principal to ICM, Kannur and was re-designated as Deputy Director till his retirement. It was in God's Own Country Kerala, Urs got a personality and it became evident, when the prominent TV channels interviewed him close to his superannuation, says Urs with a tinge of pride.

For Urs, what keeps him going for six to eight hours daily, till date is his inquisitive nature that keeps him hooked to books and also listening to classical music, **courtesy his 'ever ready' to help wife Gayatri, the reading software and also internet.**

'Gayi,' as he fondly addresses his wife, is herself a bundle of energy. She turns on the laptop with a scanner by the side, the moment she hears from her husband. The content of the pages are scanned and appears on the screen, that reads the same, as Urs starts moving the cursor.

"She is the man of the house, as she has been taking care of every matter like bank to buying groceries," says Urs in admiration. For years, she has walked along with her husband and son to drop them to office and school respectively and walked back home, with no qualms.

Drop a name, Urs pat lists the works of the writers spanning Kannada and English languages. That is how he has voraciously read the works of *Jnanpith* awardee Dr. Shivaram Karanth, *Padma Bhushan* Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, K. Poornachandra Tejaswi, Na. D'Souza and the list goes on. Likewise, mention a topic, Urs can air his views with authenticity. Be it about Wadiyars of Mysore, the Travancore Royal Family, Hinduism, etc.

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E-TENDER NOTICE No. 06/MYS/2023 of 09-02-2023

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Construction of Merchant Room and Labour Rest Room at Chamarajanagar & provision of bathing facility at Nanjangud Town. **Sub Work-I**:-Nanajangud Town-provision of bathing with 6 Nos of over head tap without roof. **Sub Work-II A**:- Chamarajanagar -Construction of CGSR office. **Sub Work-II B**:- Chamarajanagar - Construction of merchant room. **Sub Work-II C**:- Chamarajanagar - Construction of labour rest room with attached bathing complex.	Rs. 33,89,189/-
2	**Mysuru-** Proposed for water proofing treatment for Divisional office.	Rs. 50,91,104/-
3	**Senior Divisional Engineer/Central Jurisdiction:** Construction of GLR 1.0 lakh litres capacity at Hassan and Birur.	Rs. 23,75,508/-
4	**Hassan-Mangaluru Section:** Painting of steel girder bridges due for the year 2020-21 & 2022-23 under SSE/Bridge/Sakleshpur jurisdiction (including Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road ghat section) in Hassan- Mangaluru section.(Bridge Nos 293, 296, 298, 300, 367, 400, 474, 539 & IOH shed and 15, 23, 133, 142, 165, 177, 180, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 200, 232, 233, 238, 239, 241, 243, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 264, 281, 283, 287, 289, 292, 297, 303, 318, 322, 326, 327, 328, 334, 335, 337, 353, 358, 366 & 578)	Rs. 1,47,94,769/-
5	Instrumentation and condition monitoring of one span each for Five Bridges (Br. No.142@Km.47/900-48/100(3x30.5m), Br. No.183 @ Km.56/200-300 (2x12.19m), 186@Km.56/700-800 (1x9.15m), 190@Km.57/000-100 (1x12.19m+1x9.15m+1x18.29m) and 326@Km.88/650-800 (1x18.29m +1x24.40m+1x12.19m+1x30.50m) in Sakaleshpur-Subramanya Road Ghat Section of Mysuru Division in South Western Railway.	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-
6	**Hassan-Mangaluru Section:** Metalizing of steel girder bridges due for painting for the year 2018 under SSE/Br/Sakaleshpur jurisdiction (Balance work) and Br. No. 263 (Span 2 x 12.19m + 1x30.50) at Km.73/800-74/000 in Sakaleshpur-Subramanya Road including Sakaleshpur-Subramanya Road Ghat section. (Total No. of Bridges 96, 208, 210, 211, 212, 215, 217, 227, 237, 254, 255, 256, 258, 260, 261, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 279, 282, 285,578 & 263-28 Bridges)	Rs. 2,24,52,245/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03-03-2023**

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 07/MYS/2023 of 10-02-2023

Item of work	Approx. Value
Hassan-Mangaluru Section :- Proposed rebuilding of Road Over Bridge No. 520 at Km. 142/300-400 between Neralakatte-Kabaka Puttur Stations.	Rs. 5,67,55,711/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 06-03-2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ordination Mysuru

PUB/673/AAD/PRB/SWR/2222-23

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